11

DRUG



Bemrose, Collo., Derby.

OLD TEMPLE FROM NORTH-EAST, DEO-BALODA.

CENTRAL PROVINCES
DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

DRUG DISTRICT

VOLUME A
DESCRIPTIVE

EDITED BY A. E. NELSON, I.C.S.

CALCUTTA
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1910

PREFATORY NOTE.

In the compilation of this Gazetteer considerable use has been made of Mr. E. R. K. Blenkinsop's Settlement Report of the Drug Tahsīl (1903). The Chapter on Land Revenue Administration has been omitted, as the Drug District had, prior to the 1st January, 1906, no separate Land Revenue history, and the necessary information may be found in the Raipur and Bilāspur Volumes. Mr. Russell, I.C.S., has written the greater portion of Chapter I, Chapters III, V, VI, VII and the Appendix (except the articles on the Zamīndāris). A brief sketch of the history of the District has been given by Rai Bahādur Hīra Lāl, Assistant Superintendent of Gazetteer. For a more detailed account a reference is invited to the Raipur and Bilāspur Volumes. The article on Geology has been contributed by Mr. Vredenburg of the Geological Survey and that on Botany and Wild Animals by Mr. Lowrie of the Forest Department. The Chapter on Forests is also based on notes supplied by the latter. The Chapter on General Administration has been supplied by Mr. Chitnavis, Deputy Commissioner. Notes for the section on Leading Families, the Chapter on Agriculture, and for the account of the Zamīndāris have been submitted by Mr. Ratanpārkhi, Extra Assistant Commissioner. The whole book has been read by Mr. Mehdi Hasan, Deputy Commissioner.

NAGPUR, A. E. N.
30*th June* 1909.

DRUG
DISTRICT GAZETTEER.

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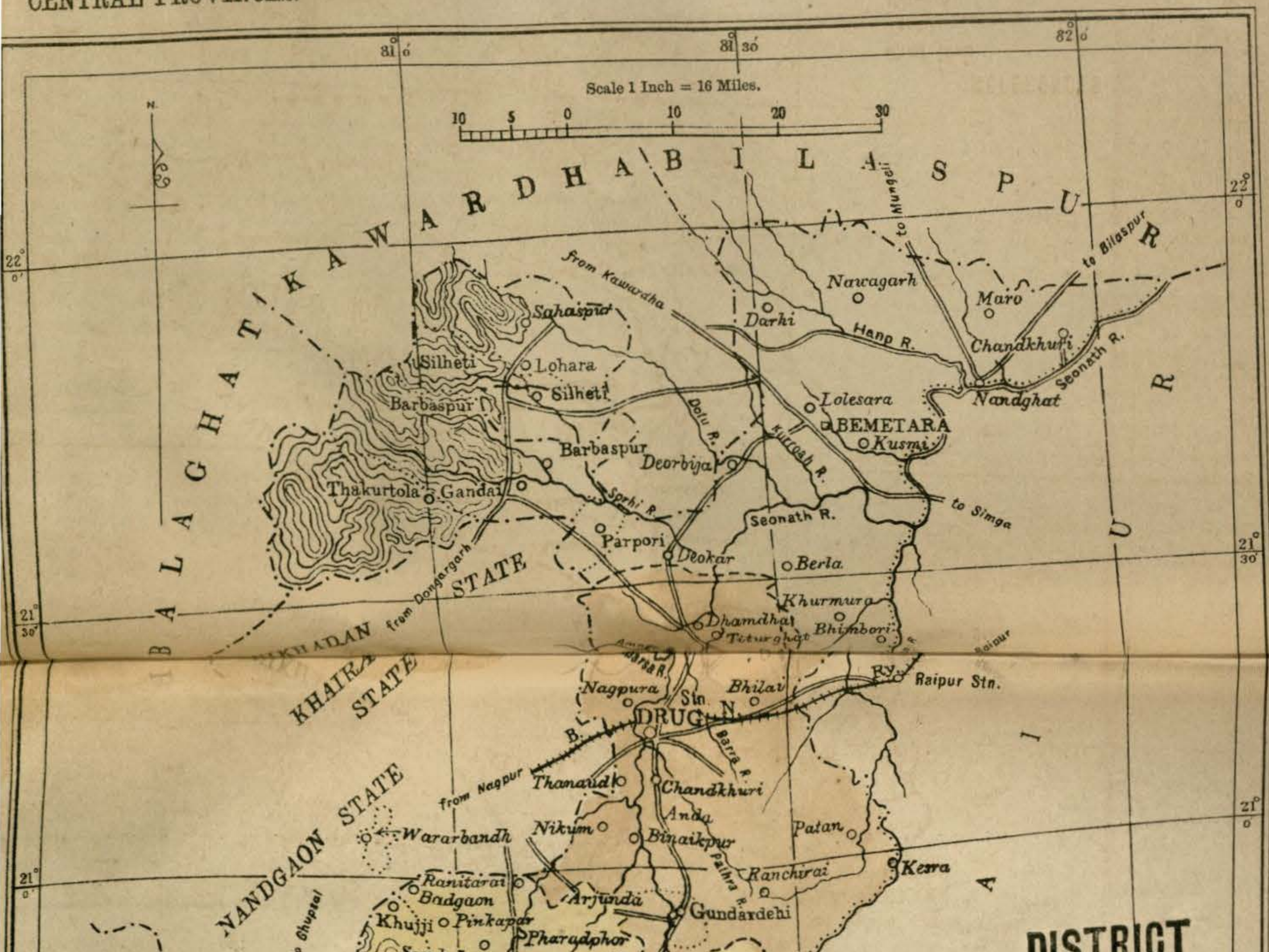
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List of Deputy Commissioners who have held charge of the Drug District since its constitution, viz., from 1st January 1906.

NAMES.	PERIODS.	
	From	To
Mr. H. M. Laurie, I.C.S. ..	1-1-1906	23-1-1906
Mr. S. M. Chitnavis, S.C.S ..	24-1-1906	30-4-1906
Mr. M. D. Ratanpārkhi ..	1-5-1906	21-5-1906
Mr. S. M. Chitnavis, S.C.S...	22-5-1906	24-10-1907
Mr. Mehdi Hasan, M.A., Bar.-at-Law	25-10-1907	10-9-1908
Mr. S. M. Chitnavis, S.C.S...	11-9-1908	10-5-1909
Mr. M. D. Ratanpārkhi ..	11-5-1909	20-5-1909
Mr. Mehdi Hasan, M.A., Bar.-at-Law	21-5-1909	..

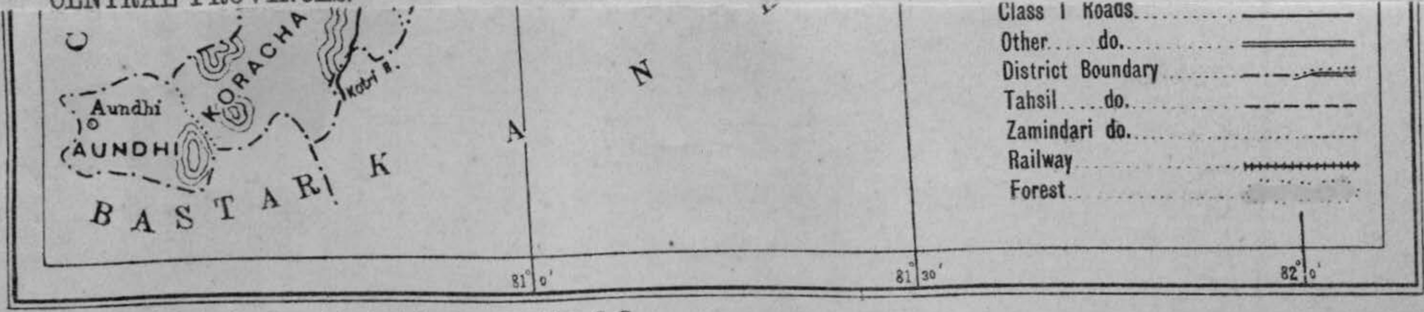


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CENTRAL PROVINCES.



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DRUG DISTRICT.

CHAPTER I.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

BOUNDARIES AND PHYSICAL FEATURES.

Position and boundaries.

1. The Drug District is one of the three Districts comprising the Chhattīsgarh Division. It lies between 20° 23′ and 22° 1′ N., and 80° 43′ and 81° 58′ E. The District was constituted in 1906 from portions of the Raipur and Bilāspur Districts, which at that time covered an area of 20,000 square miles and contained a population of 2½ million persons. Drug comprises a portion of the old Mungelī tahsīl in the south-west of Bilāspur, and the whole of the former Drug tahsīl, and parts of the Simgā and Dhamtarī tahsīls in the west of Raipur. In 1907, four zamīndāri estates were transferred from the Chānda District to Drug, and are situated on the south-western border. The District consists of a long strip of land running from north to south, narrowest in the centre where the headquarters town of Drug is situated, and widening at the extremities. It is bounded on the north by the Khairāgarh and Kawardhā Feudatory States and the Bilāspur District; on the west by the Raipur District; on the south by the Kānker State; and on the east by the Khairāgarh and Nāndgaon States and the Chānda and Bālāghāt Districts. It is divided into three tahsīls, of which Bemetarā lies to the north, Drug in the centre, and Sanjāri to the south. The length of the District from

north to south is about 115 miles; while the width in the centre at Drug is only 17 miles, widening out to 34 miles in the broadest part of the Bemetarā tahsīl, and 80 miles in Sanjāri tahsīl. In the north, strips of the Khairāgarh and Chhuikhadān States divide the eastern or mālguzāri portion of the Bemetarā tahsīl from the western tract, consisting of six zamīndāri estates lying on the summits and slopes of the Maikal range.

The open country.

2. The bulk of the *khālsa* or area held by village proprietors is open undulating country, bare of hill or jungle. In the centre and north especially, the view from the high gravel ridges extends for miles. The surface is generally covered by black-soil, that of the Dhamdā tract in the north of the Drug tahsīl being the finest in the Chhattīsgarh plain. The north-east of the Bemetarā tahsīl consists generally of an expanse of black-soil, fairly fertile, but noticeably bare of trees and in parts poorly supplied with tanks and liable to a scarcity of water. Spring or cold-weather crops are largely grown in this area, and in some parts are more important than the rice crop. The tract is traversed by the Seonāth with its tributary the Khārun. The Seonāth flows north from Drug past Dhamdā, and turning east for a short distance again veers to the north on receiving the Khārun and forms the eastern boundary of the Bemetarā tahsīl. South of the junction with the Seonāth the boundary is marked by the Khārun. Numerous streams as the Sonbarsā, Amner, Sorhī, Karrā and Hānp flow down from the hills to the north-west to join the Seonāth, their general direction being from west to east. The south-east of Bemetarā tahsīl lies between the Khārun and the Seonāth, and is traversed by the Lor, a tributary of the former river. Countless other small streams flow through this area, and there is scarcely a village of any size which is not bounded by a nullah.

These streams can be embanked at the end of September at a trifling cost, Mr. Blenkinsop remarks, and will then afford a good water-supply for men and cattle, while a large area can be irrigated from them by lifts for the growth of garden crops. The centre of the District comprised in the Bhilai, Nandkathī and Ajrundā tracts lies on the watershed between the Khārun river and the Tandulā-Seonāth system with some patches of black soil; most of the villages lie high and have wide spreads of gravel. To the west, the villages along the Tandulā and Seonāth consist generally of a black-soil tract, fringed by higher ground receding from the rivers.

In the south the mālguzāri area consists generally of a level black-soil plain bordered by the forests of Dondī-Lohāra, Sanjāri, and Khujjī on the west. The Pātan and Ranchirai tracts to the east form with the Dhamtarī plain the richest ones to be found in the Drug or Raipur District. Dhamtarī has some superiority in double-cropping, but these Drug villages are better supplied with tanks. The Gundardehī zamīndāri is a rich open tract adjoining this area.

Hilly tract of Sanjāri.

3. In the south and west of the mālguzāri area of Sanjāri tahsil is some low hill country, and here is situated the only block of Government forest, 174 square miles in extent, which the District contains. The remainder of the hilly country is comprised in the zamīndāri estates to the north-west of Bemetarā tahsīl and the south-west of Sanjāri.

The northern zamīndāris.

4. In the north-west a narrow strip of the Maikal range, the name given to the eastern face of the Sātpurās, occupies a corner of the District. The hilly country is comprised in six zamīndāri estates, most of which have a strip of plain country to the east,

flanked by hills to the west. The more important estates are Thākurtolā, Gandai, and Sahaspur-Lohāra. These lie along the hills, but Gandai and Sahaspur-Lohāra also extend into the plain on the west, while almost the whole area of Thākurtolā is hill and forest. Three other smaller zamīndāris—Silheti, Barbaspur and Parporī—are included in the same tract. Silheti and Barbaspur each consists of small hill and plain tracts isolated from each other, while Parporī is a small estate in the open plain. Between this zamīndāri area and the rest of Bemetarā tahsīl are interposed isolated pieces of territory of the Khairāgarh, Nāndgaon and Chhuikhadān States, which are mixed up with the zamīndāris in great confusion.

The south-western zamīndāris.

5. On the south-west of the District lie the zamīndāris of Khujjī and Dondī-Lohāra separated by a strip of mālguzāri area, with the four estates of Ambāgarh-Chaukī, Korācha, Pānabāras and Aundhī, recently transferred from Chānda. With the exception of small open tracts in the north, south and east Dondī-Lohāra is mainly covered with forest. Khujjī is hilly, but the culturable area is fairly well developed and there is little valuable forest. Most of the Ambāgarh-Chaukī estate is fairly open and well-populated resembling the Chhattīsgarh plain. Pānabāras consists of mixed forests and cultivated land, while Korācha and Aundhī contain some of the densest forest country to be found in the Province, where the jungle is only broken by occasional collections of a few mud huts, and one may march for miles without seeing a person.

Rivers.

6. The most important river is the Seonāth and practically all the others are its tributaries. The river rises in Pānabāras zamīndāri and flows to the north dividing Khujjī

zamīndāri from Nāndgaon State. It passes through the south-west of Nāndgaon turning to the east and again enters Drug District. Here, on being joined by the Tandulā in the south of Drug tahsīl, the river turns north and flows through that tahsīl and part of Bemetarā, passing close to Drug and Nandkathī. Half way up the Bemetarā tahsīl, it again makes a curve to the east as far as the border of Bemetarā tahsīl, where it is joined by the Khārun. The Seonāth thus again turns north and marks the boundary between Simgā and Bemetarā as far as the border of the District. Its bed is sandy and free from rocks for the greater part of its course in the District, and the banks are high above the river bed. The width near Drug is about 3 furlongs and gets wider in the north. The Tandulā rises in the Sanjāri tahsīl near Themā and flows due north through the Sanjāri tahsīl, till it joins the Seonāth in Drug tahsīl near Changorī, noted for a very large mango-grove. Its bed is sandy and its banks low. Its principal tributary is the Sukkā, which joins it near Bālod. The Khārun rises in a tank in the village of Pātechuā in Sanjāri tahsīl, and flowing along the border of that tahsīl, passes into Raipur. It again marks the eastern boundary of Bemetarā tahsīl for some distance previous to its junction with the Seonāth. Other tributaries of the Seonāth are the Kharkharā which meets it at Bhothlī on the Nāndgaon border above the junction of the Tandulā. In the Bemetarā tahsīl, as already mentioned, several streams join the Seonāth from the west, the Sonbarsā, Amner, Sorhī, Dotu and Kurnā. The junction of the Sonbarsā is near Dāndesura and that of the Amner near Nandkathī.

Elevations.

7. Except in the north-west, south and south-west, the District is all open, undulating country bare of hill or jungle. The general slope of the plain is to the north-east and the

elevation is less than 1000 feet above sea-level. Drug town has an elevation of 967 feet, Nāndgaon just beyond the western border of the District 1011 feet, and Raipur just beyond the eastern border 1080 feet. The highest points are found in the zamīndāris. The hills near Khanari and Rānigura in Silheti zamīndāri have an elevation of 2563 and 2432 feet respectively. Singborā in Thākurtolā zamīndāri is 2272 feet and the town of Ambāgarh-Chaukī 1214 feet high. In the north in Sahaspur-Lohāra zamīndāri, Sonpur is 1147, Singrāmpur 1253, and Kamapāni 1995 feet above sea-level.

GEOLOGY.

8. The Drug District includes an elongated strip stretching from north to south constituting mostly a very flat area, the valley of the Seonāth, a tributary of the Mahānadi. The average altitude of this flat area is slightly over 1000 feet above sea-level. It is only in the north-western and south-western extensions of the District that a relatively small area becomes diversified by hilly ground, the altitude just along a portion of the north-western border reaching or exceeding 2500 feet. These peculiarities of the topography reflect corresponding differences in the geological constitution. The low-lying area is occupied by horizontally bedded or slightly tilted rocks, principally purple shales and limestones belonging to the Kadapāh system of Algonkian age.[1] These rocks usually concealed beneath spreads of alluvium and laterite occupy a vast basin-shaped depression, constituting the plain of Chhattīsgarh, and traversed by the Mahānadi and its tributaries. The western part of the

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[1] For a brief account of the classification and succession of the various geological systems met with in India, see "A Summary of the Geology of India" (Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta, 2nd edition, 1909).

CENTRAL PROVINCES.

DISTRICT

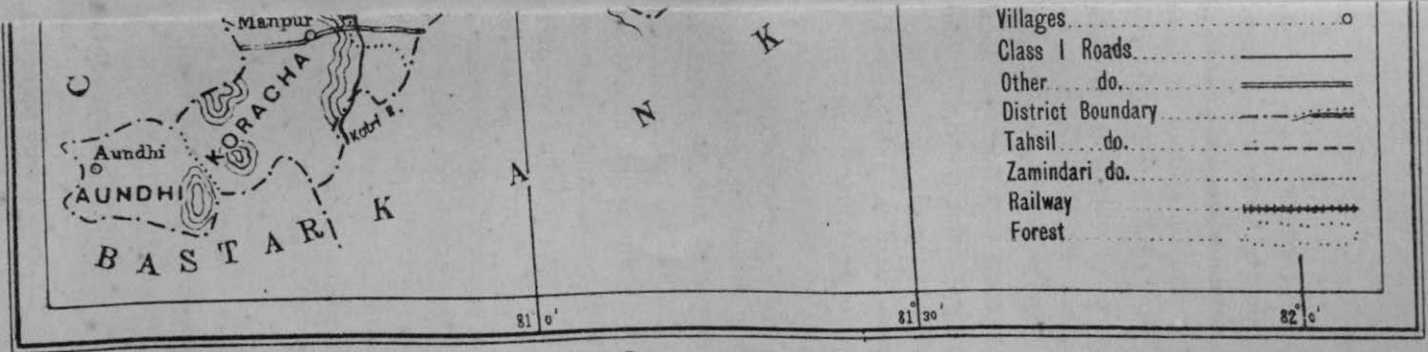
DRUG



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DISTRICT



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Chhattīsgarh basin of Kadapāh rocks occupies the main portion of Drug District, while the central and eastern portions include extensive fertile tracts in Raipur and Bilāspur. The purple shales and limestones are known locally as the Raipur series after the city of that name, some 25 miles east of Drug. It is only round the edges of the Chhattīsgarh basin that the Kadapāh rocks rise into distinct hills constituted by the basal members underlying the Raipur series, a group of sandstones locally known as the Chandarpur series, forming a rim of gently tilted strata all round the basin occupied by the Raipur beds. In Drug District these basal Chandarpur sandstones only occupy some 60 to 80 square miles in the neighbourhood of Bālod about 30 miles south of Drug.

The north-western and south-western extensions of the District owe their more varied topography to the presence of a set of highly disturbed and indurated very ancient rocks belonging to the Dhārwār system of Huronian age, locally known as the Chilpi series, named after the Chilpi Ghāt leading up to the Amarkantak plateau a few miles beyond the north-western boundary of the District. They include various forms of slates and volcanic rocks and are sometimes associated with gneisses. At one point along the north-western boundary of the District, close to the village of Sahaspur, where the highest altitude of the District is met with, the Chilpi rocks are capped by basaltic rocks of the Deccan Trap constituting a spur jutting out from the Amarkantak plateau.

The Dhārwār system is the chief metalliferous series of India, constituting the usual home of the merchantable ores of gold, manganese and iron. The Dhārwār rocks in the southern extension of the Drug District contain the famous iron-ore body of Dalli in the Dondī-Lohāra zamīndāri, an enormous mass of almost pure hæmatite.

There is another village of the name of Lohāra in the north-western extension of District, also occupied by Dhārwār rocks; the name suggests the existence of other iron-ore deposits.

The territories now constituting the Drug District come within the area described by Ball in "The Geology of the Mahānadi Basin" (*Rec. G.S.I.*, Vol. X, page 167 to 186), and by King in "The Chhattīsgarh Division" (*Rec. G.S.I.*, Vol. XVIII, pages 169 to 200).

BOTANY.

General.

9. In describing the characteristic plants of the Drug District, it is proposed to take first the flora of the open *bhāta* wastes or high-lying bare ridges of laterite, so familiar to railway travellers passing through the District. Next comes the flora of the open rice-fields of sandy and clay soils, varying from light yellow loam to deep black clay. The village site has a distinctive flora in its groves, gardens, tanks, and house enclosures, where, during the rains, small crops of vegetables and grain are reared. Some different plants are again found in the river beds and along their stretches of sandy banks. Whilst, lastly but most important of all, are the forests where the variety of the flora is very extensive.

Trees of waste lands.

10. The *bhāta* waste is, at present, nearly void of all tree and shrub growth, and its appearance might lead to the conclusion that it never bore any forest. This is by no means the case, as is shown by the short stunted growth of *tendū* (*Diospyros melanoxylon*) on some of the more recently cleared wastes. *Tendū* is a forest tree that grows to a very large size in its natural surroundings, but in these bare plains it is never found more than 2 feet high at the most, although it comes up year

after year. An enquiry soon shows what is happening; the village cattle as they graze tear up the soil with their hoofs, exposing any *tendū* root that happens to be there, with the result that it sends up a shoot at the beginning of the hot weather to aid those that have come up before; owing to continual grazing by buffaloes, these shoots have little chance of establishing themselves, and the few, that manage to survive into thicker and older shoots, are immediately cut out by the villager for firewood. But the remnants of the *tendū*, now found in some of these wastes, show that other forest trees, less tenacious, also grew on the *bhāta* waste at no distant date. Even the *tendū*, tenacious as it is, will disappear in time, and all these wastes will become absolute treeless plains. Of the herbaceous plants on the *bhāta*, which have all assumed a creeping form owing to the heavy grazing, the principal are *gukrā* (*Glossocardia linearifolia*), *manori* (*Lepidaghathis trinervis*), *kusmi* (*Polycarpea Corymbosa*), *chhoti chinaori* (*Indigofera linifolia*), *bhursi* (*Glosogyne penatifida*) and *gudrū* (*Alternanthera sessiles*). None of the above is of any economic value, and all have very insignificant flowers. Small grasses are also found, but with continuous grazing on such very poor soil they do not thrive.

Trees of open fields.

11. Perhaps the most common weed in the cultivated fields is *guraria* (*Sphaeranthus indicus*), a plant with trailing green stems and globose purple flowers, which is nearly always found in damp ground and in rice-fields; the whole plant has an aromatic odour and is used medicinally as a bitter tonic. Another common weed is *kuthwā* (*Xanthium Strumarium*), which may prevent the cultivation of a second crop, but is much appreciated by the cultivator in his rice-fields, because it almost rivals manure in its power of renovating the soil. It has been stated

that oil can be extracted from the seed and a yellow dye from the leaves. Other common weeds are the *godnā* (*Euphorbia pilulifera*); *ban murai* (*Tridax procumbens*), a most objectionable plant in the garden, since it flowers all the year round, and the seeds are blown about in every direction; *aondi* (*Trichodesma indicum*), a handsome, rough-leaved plant with drooping light purple flowers, which occurs in sandy soils, the leaves being crushed for use as a poultice for boils; *selāri* (*Celosia argentea*), a high and very troublesome weed in dry crops, which soon takes possession of the fields and drives everything else out. *Agia* (*Striga lutea*), although common, is not nearly so troublesome in this District as in some other parts of the Province. Fields that have been very damp during the rains, are sure to bear *moklā* (*Hygrophilla spinosa*); more abundantly it is found below tank embankments in very moist soil. It is excellent cover for the snipe, but beware of the stiff spines. The seeds are used medicinally and are sold in the bazars under the name of *lāl makan*; the leaves and roots boiled in milk are also used as a tonic. Along the embankments of rice-fields and on the moist banks of sandy nullahs intersecting the fields, there occurs a strikingly handsome plant with a pea-shaped flower, much like the English gorse, called *ghunguna* (*Crotalaria sericea*); it yields a fibre, but not so good as that derived from its cousin the cultivated *san* (*Crotolaria juncea*). On nearing the village, numerous herbaceous plants are found, the chief among them being *sarphok* (*Tephrosia purpurea*), of which the crushed leaves are used as a poultice for eruptions in children. An introduction from America which has now spread throughout the length and breadth of India, is the *utkatār* (*Argemone mexicana*); the leaves of this plant, crushed and mixed with ground black pepper, make an excellent remedy for itch; the juice is also used in cases of

opthalmia, and an oil is extracted from the seed and used for lighting. *Gokri* (*Urena sinuata*) is very common; also *batiari* (*Sida carpinifolia*), the stiff stems of which are cut and used as brooms in the villages. Everyone is acquainted with the *charotā* spinach, of which there are two kinds, *Cassia occidentalis* and *Cassia obtusifolia*; the young leaves of both varieties at the beginning of the rains are made into a curry and eaten. There is a third kind called *bani charotā* (*Cassia Sophera*), common along the open banks of the Mahānadi river, which grows much larger than the other two. The *memri* (*Ocimum adscendens*), which has a strong verbena scent, is found occasionally; the juice of the leaves is used medicinally for worms in children, while the seeds, known in the bazars as *tuk malanga*, make a pleasant cooling drink when soaked in water. Of the smaller herbs of the village green, we have the *bhurosi* (*Evolvulus alsinoides*), with slender stems creeping along the ground, and very pretty flowers in different shades of blue. *Ionidium heterophyllum* has pretty solitary red flowers, and the roots and leaves are used medicinally. The *bhatia* (*Solanum indicum*) is fairly common; the whole plant including the leaves is studded with yellow prickles, the flowers are purple and the berry yellow. It is used medicinally for tooth-ache, and a decoction of the fruit is given for coughs.

Village trees.

12. On the village rubbish heap, *Amaranthus spinosus* is common; the leaves are eaten as spinach. The *bāgnak* (*Martynia diandra*), an introduction from America, is a rank, coarse herb with pink flowers and a capsule beaked with strong curved spines; it flourishes with *Datura fastuosa* and *Datura Stramonium*. The latter is a rank poison, which is sometimes used by professional criminals. Amongst the trees cultivated or otherwise in the village site, and

which can hardly be called forest trees, may be mentioned the horse-radish tree, *mungi* (*Moringa pterygosperma*), the seed pods of which are eaten when made into curry, and the young roots are crushed as a substitute for horse-radish. *Basnā* (*Sesbania grandiflora*), a short-lived soft wooded tree, has a pretty raceme of milk-white flowers, each flower being about 3 inches in length; the young pods and flowers are eaten as a vegetable. The *ber* (*Zizyphus jujuba*) is a very common tree in the village and along the tank embankment; when found in the forest, it always indicates an old village site; the fruit is eaten and lac is at times cultivated on it; the wood is hard and close-grained. Along hedges and along the entrance to villages, *Clerodendron phlomoides* is not uncommon and the flowers, somewhat resembling the honeysuckle, give a pleasant scent for some distance around. Here also at times is found the *gandri babūl* (*Acacia Farnesiana*) with its sweet-scented, deep golden flowers; also the *sītāphal* or custard-apple (*Anona squamosa*), the fruit of which is well known; the leaves crushed and mixed with camphor are an excellent remedy for fly blows in the sores of cattle and other animals. The *nīm* (*Melia Azadirachta*) is a common village tree; from the fruit an acrid bitter oil is extracted, which is used medicinally and also for lighting; the leaves are used for hot fomentations. In most villages *bajrandā* (*Jatropha Curcas*), an American plant, is used for fencing enclosures; the seed is a strong purgative and an oil is extracted from it both for lighting and medicinal purposes. The *nāgphani* (*Opuntia Dillenii*) and *kekti*, the common aloe, are also used at times for fencing purposes in villages. *Parkinsonia aculeata* is a handsome shrub met with in some villages growing on sandy soils and in hedges; this plant is an introduction from tropical America.

Along the edges of tanks, where water has been standing, are found the *dhandhana* (*Sesbania aculeata*), and at times a thistle-like plant with strong bristly spines, called *kānta* (*Echinops echinatus*). Nearly every village tank contains one or the other of the water-lilies known as *kamal* (*Nelumbium speciosum*), the sacred lotus of the Hindus with their large, white, pink, red and blue flowers ; the seeds and root stems are eaten. The *singhāra* or water-nut (*Trapa bispinosa*) is artificially cultivated in some tanks ; the fruit is largely eaten, both raw and cooked. The most common weed covering the tank and growing under water is the *chela*, an alga (*Chara Sp.*). More common than the *kamal* is the *jal mogrā* (*Linanthermum Cristatum*) with its small, pretty, white flowers, growing out of the base of the leaf and reaching from 3 to 4 inches above the water. Growing in the bed of shallow tanks we have the *deo dhān* or wild rice, of which the ripe seeds in December and January are collected by the Dhīmars in large quantities. Various sedges are also found and at times the common bulrush.

There are numbers of excellent groves planted close to villages. These are composed almost solely of mango (*Mangifera indica*), of which the fruit is much appreciated although only the common kinds are grown from seed. Now and again the tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*) is also found, but is less common than in some other Districts. Of trees confined to road-sides and seldom found elsewhere may be mentioned *siris* (*Albizzia Lebek*) and *karanj* (*Pongamia glabra*). The latter is practically an evergreen with pretty racemes of pink flowers ; oil is extracted from the seed, which is used medicinally, for lighting and at times for cooking. Along the open river beds and banks the characteristic plants are *chhotī ber* (*Zizyphus nummularia*), *phunder* (*Calotropis procera*) with its purple,

not unpleasantly scented flowers; the leaves are used in hot fomentations; it is also called *āk* and *madār* and is very widely distributed in all sandy soils. Growing best along the sandy beds of rivers, we have the *jhau* (*Tamarix dioica*), which is a very striking and handsome shrub when in flower. Should the river bed be stony, *Rhabdia lycioides* at times is found; it is an evergreen with pretty purple flowers. A well-known tree which is only found on river banks and along the beds of sandy streams is *jal kambi* (*Barringtonia acutangula*), which has fine slender racemes of deep pink flowers; the bark is used as a poison for stupefying fish. A well-known herbaceous plant growing along the damp edges and even in the beds of streams is *Exocum*, one of the gentians with very pretty light purple flowers.

Forest trees.

13. The flora of the forests may be divided into trees, shrubs, climbers, parasites, herbaceous plants and grasses. The teak (*Tectona grandis*) is found in the forests of this District, where it grows in a pole stage. The *sāj* (*Terminalia tomentosa*), *kauhā* (*T. Arjuna*), *baherā* (*T. belerica*) and *harrā* (*T. Chebula*) are found everywhere. The *sāj* pole is preferred for house-building in most of the Chhattīsgarh villages, even to *sarai*, as being more durable. The *harrā* tree yields as fruit the true myrabolams, in which there is a large export trade; from the *baherā* fruit an oil is extracted which is used for lighting. The wood of *karrā* (*Cleistanthus collinus*) is very hard and durable. The *dhaurā* (*Anogeissus latifolia*), *lendia* (*Lagerstroemia parviflora*), *tinsā* (*Ougeinia dalbergioides*) and *tendū* (*Diospyros melanoxylon*) are common in all forests. From the heartwood (*duramen*) of the latter a good ebony is obtained. The *bīja* (*Pterocarpus Marsupium*) is an excellent wood, next in quality to teak, and is common in all forests; from this tree the true gum *kino* is obtained. The satin-

wood tree *bhira* (*Chloroxylon Swietenia*) is very common in the dry forests of the District, but never attains any size; the wood is used chiefly for house poles. The *shīsham* (*Dalbergia latifolia*), another common tree, does not grow to a very large size; likewise the *kamar* (*Gmelina arborea*), which gives a very light wood excellent for furniture. The *kusum* (*Schleichera trijuga*) is a very good hard wood, but is not usually cut owing to its value for the propagation of lac. The wood of the *haldū* (*Adina cordifolia*) is used for making combs. The *aonlā* (*Phyllanthus Emblica*) gives a good strong pole, and the sour fruit is used medicinally when made into pickle and preserved The wood of *amaltās*, locally known as *dhanbohar* (*Cassia fistula*), is also used for house poles; this handsome tree is better known as the Indian laburnum, with its clusters of golden yellow flower which appear in April and May; the soft brown pulp round the seed is used medicinally. Of the less useful timber trees may be mentioned the *salai* (*Boswellia serrata*) and *gindol* (*Sterculea urens*) which are very common in most of the dry stony forests. The silk cotton tree or *semar* (*Bombax malabaricum*), with its brilliant red flowers which appear in March, is a very striking tree when in flower. Another common flowering tree is *ganiār* (*Cochlospermum Gossypium*) with its fine bright yellow flowers which appear in March when the tree is leafless. The *Acacias* are represented by three well-known species, *babūl* (*Acacia arabica*), *pāndari babūl* (*Acacia leucoploca*), and *khair* (*Acacia Catechu*). The first is more common than the second, but both occur mostly in the open ground around villages, in the fields, and along roadsides. *Babūl* wood is excellent for cart wheels. *Khair* on the other hand is essentially a forest tree with excellent wood. The most important product of this tree is the resinous extract known as catechu or *katthā*, which is extracted by

repeatedly boiling chips of the heartwood in water until the solution acquires the consistency of a paste. The *rohni* (*Soymida febrifuga*) is a good tree with strong wood found in the forest on *kanhār* soil; it is used for dyeing a brown colour. The *bel* (*Aegle Marmelos*), which is confined more to the outskirts of the forests, yields a fruit of which the medicinal properties are well known; the pulp of the ripe fruit is also eaten as food, and the shells of the smaller fruits are largely made into small tobacco boxes. *Kaith* (*Feronia Elephantum*) is only found in village lands and on deserted sites in the forest; the pulp of the ripe fruit, which is acid, is largely used as a chutney. Of the *Bauhinias* there are many species, the best known being *Bauhinia variegata*, with its handsome white and purple flowers, of which the young buds are eaten; it is also grown in some village gardens. Another variety *amti* (*B. retusa*) is fairly common; it can be recognised by the acid taste in the leaves; it yields a clear gum resembling gum-arabic which is used medicinally and is also largely used for making sweetmeats. The *ghotia* (*Zizyphus xylopyrus*) is only found in the forest and is used as firewood. The figs are well represented and with very few exceptions may be classed as trees found generally in the open. The *gūlar* (*Ficus glomerata*) can be easily distinguished by its light bluey green foliage and the clusters of pear-shaped fruit all along the stem, sometimes quite large; when ripe the fruit is quite red and is eaten by the village children. The *bar* (*F. bengalensis*) is a most useful tree on account of its shade, the fruit is eaten in times of scarcity. The sacred pīpal (*F. religiosa*) comes next. The *gasti* (*F. infectoria*) has small yellowish white berries when ripe, of which green pigeons are very fond; when well-grown the tree is very handsome. The *kāmbi* (*Careya arborea*), with its very large myrtle-like flowers but of a pink white colour, grows everywhere in the forests in the

better soils; the inner bark is said to be very good for the manufacture of paper.

Smaller trees and shrubs.

14. Of the smaller trees and shrubs there is a great variety in the forests. The *Gardenias* are represented by four species: *kharar* (*Gardenia turgida*), *dongar kuru* (*Gardenia latifolia*), *kuru* (*Gardenia lucida*) and (*Gardenia gummifera*). The gum obtained from the last two is collected from the leaf buds and is called *dikāmāli*; it is sold in the bazars and used as a medicine for sores. Allied to the *Gardenias* are two common small forest trees, *manhār* (*Randia dumetorum*) and *telkā* (*Randia uliginosa*); the latter is found in all water-logged rich soils and in forest glades; it has handsome large white flowers and a large fruit which when young is eaten. The *tilai* (*Wendlandia exserta*) is a very handsome shrub or small tree; when in flower during March, the whole plant is covered with masses of white flowers which are very sweet-scented. The *parsi* (*Butea frondosa*), better known as the flame of the forests, is a very handsome tree when in flower; lac is grown on it, the roots are also used for making rope fibre, and the leaves are used to roll up the Chhattīsgarhi cheroots. There are numerous *Grewias* in the forest, the best known of which is *dhāman* (*Grewia Asiatica*); the wood is sometimes called the Indian lancewood and is largely used by the natives for their *kāwars*, or sticks which are balanced on the shoulders and from the ends of which bundles are suspended. The fruit of all the *Grewias* is eaten, and the bark is used for fibre. Of the smaller shrubs, the *dhamani* (*Woodfordia floribunda*) is a handsome plant when in flower; the flowers appear in March all along the stem and are used as a dye. The *atain* (*Helicteres Isora*) is a shrub with a hazel-like foliage, red flowers and twisted pods; a very good fibre is obtained from the bark. A strikingly handsome shrub

is the *ghirgholi* (*Indigofera pulchella*); in February it is covered with a mass of rose purple flowers, which are eaten as vegetables. The *magordatta* (*Mimosa rubicaulis*) is found in sandy places bordering the forest; it has pretty pink flowers and the stem is very thorny.

Climbers.

15. The large climbers are well represented in the forests, and mention may first be made of *sihāri* (*Bauhinia Vahlii*), known commonly as *mawal* in other Districts; it yields a coarse fibre, the seeds when roasted are eaten, and serviceable umbrellas are made from the strong, tough leaves, which are also used as plates. The common climber known as *donkerbel* (*Spatholobus Roxburghii*) does much damage to the forest trees. The *bodal* (*Butea superba*) has *palās*-shaped flowers, which are much more handsome and larger than *palās*. The *makoi* (*Ziziphus nummularia*) is a most objectionable climber owing to the numerous wait-a-bit thorns along the stems; the small black fruit is largely eaten by the people and by birds. The *pethori* (*Zizyphus rugosa*) is a less common climber, of which the ripe white fruit is eaten. The *chil* (*Acacia caesia*) and *Acacia pinnata* are two large climbers found in all dry forests; the latter only on the poorest soils. The *keonti* (*Ventilago madraspatana*) is a large climber found along the banks of streams on the outskirts of the forest; the seed gives an excellent oil which is used for cooking. On the edge of the forest in sandy or laterite soils, is also found the large climber called *dhāmas* (*Combretum decandrum*), which is very conspicuous when in flower by its pure white bracts. The flower itself is quite insignificant but is even more offensively scented than the *baherā*. Of the smaller climbers may be mentioned the *apeng* (*Celastrus paniculata*), an extensive climber; the oil obtained from the seed is much valued for rheumatism. The *cherising* (*Ichnocarpus frutescens*) is an extensive

climber found only on the outskirts of poor forests. The *rām datūn* (*Smilax macrophylla*) is a very common climber in *sāl* forests. The *karawa* (*Capparis horrida*) is found in some village sites climbing over large trees; it has handsome flowers, white when they first appear and turning red later on; and the fruit is eaten. The *dasmur* (*Asparagus racemosus*) is fairly common in all forests.

Parasites.

16. The parasites are represented by *bānda* (*Loranthus longiflorus*), which grows very commonly on numerous trees. Mahuā and *chār* are the two which are most injured; in some areas all the mahuā is badly infected, many of the trees being killed outright. *Viscum articulatum* is allied to the English mistletoe, and is generally found on *tendū*. The *amarbel* (*Cuscuta reflexa*) is principally found on the *ber* with its long golden thread-like stems entirely covering the tree. The common palm of the District is the small date palm, *chīn* (*Phoenix acaulis*); it is found all over the forests growing on poor soils. *Phoenix sylvestris* is found growing round tank bunds in some villages. With the commencement of the rains a number of lilies and orchids begin to flower, the most common among the former being a species of *Amaryllis*. *Crynum ensifolium* and *Costus spinosus* both with white flowers are also common. Of the ground orchids the *Habenaria* is represented by two species, both with white flowers. The chief tree orchids are *Vanda Roxburghii* which is very common; and the flowers of which are pretty and at times scented; and the cats-tail orchid (*Vanda Blumii*). On the sandstone plateau is a small plant, characteristic of the very poor soil found on it, *Selaginella rupestris*; where this plant grows, grass is not even found; it is only green during the rains and up to November, after which it curls up, though the roots remain green through the hottest weather. The only

bamboo found wild in the District is the *bāns* (*Dendrocalamus strictus*), and its area is also limited. The *katang* (*Bambusa arundinacea*) is not indigenous, and where found is sure to have been planted.

Grasses.

17. The District contains a great variety of grasses, only a few of which are utilized when cut by the villagers, and these not for fodder but for thatching. Owing to the large quantities of rice-straw available, grass is not reserved for the purposes of fodder. The amount of grass removed from the forest and from private lands for thatching is very large, and hundreds of carts are engaged in this traffic from December to March every year. The only two kinds removed are *gandri* and *sukla*, the others being considered inferior. These two grasses are of sufficient value to induce some landowners to allow fields to lie fallow, which are carefully protected from cattle grazing so as to allow the grass to be cut for sale after the rains. All grasses, when young at the beginning of the rains, are eaten by the cattle, and also, for the matter of that, nearly all when the grass is dry. On the whole the grasses are not so nutritious as in most of the other Districts of the Central Provinces, and this may account to a certain extent for the wretched condition of the local cattle. *Gandri* (*Iseilema laxum*) is the most valuable grass and is readily eaten by cattle, but it is nearly always reserved for thatching. This grass is only found in good black-soil. *Kusal* (*Heteropogon contortus*), commonly known as spear grass, is found in great abundance all over the District, and is not confined to any particular soil; it is readily eaten when young by the cattle, and next to *gandri* is principally cut and used by the villagers for thatching. *Dhander* (*Iseilema Wightii*) is somewhat similar to *gandri*, from which it can be distinguished by the red tinge given to the patch where it is growing;

it is a good fodder grass both for cattle and horses, and can only be found in rich soils; it is not used for thatching as the dry stalks are brittle. *Safed kusal* (*Andropogon annulatus*) is found growing with *gandri*; it is a good fodder grass and is also largely cut for thatching. *Tewā* (*Anthistiria imberbis*) is a fair fodder grass growing on sandy soils in flat ground; it is at times used for thatching, mixed with *sukla*. The grass is easily recognised by the thick clusters of spikelets which turn red on the grass drying, and are always surrounded by short leaves. *Dūbi* (*Cynodon dactylon*) is a small sea-green coloured perennial grass, the stems creeping along the ground root, and throwing out at the nodes leaf stems about 9 inches high. The grass is well known as an excellent fodder grass, in fact the best that can be obtained in the plains, cattle and horses eating even the roots when they can get it. *Gatia* (*Andropogon pertusus*) ranks next to *dūbi* as an excellent fodder grass. It is found on moist rich soils, and grows from one to two feet high when well grown; both cattle and horses eat it greedily. *Sawān* (*Setaria glauca*) grows near villages during the rains on good culturable soils; the grain is used as food by the poorer classes. *Kānsi* (*Saccharum spontaneum*) is a noxious deep-rooted weed, growing in fallow ground and along the banks of rice-fields; it is known by its feathery head of flowers; when young it is eaten by cattle. *Latkana* (*Setaria verticillata*) is a coarse grass growing near villages; it has a long flower stem, at the top of which are the round flower spikes, which when ripe are very adhesive and cling to one's clothes; it is eaten by cattle. *Orai* (*Andropogan muricatus*) is the well-known *khas* grass, from the roots of which the *khas-khas tattis* are made; it grows near tanks on low-lying ground and on the banks of nullahs; it is eaten by cattle and the stiff stems are made into brooms. *Bharru* (*Anthisteria arundinacea*)

is a tall grass growing to 15 feet in height; it grows gregariously on wet sandy ground all along sandy nullah and river banks. Cattle eat the young leaves, and wild buffaloes are very fond of lying up in it; the stems are made into native pens. *Bagai* (*Pollinia eriopoda*), commonly known as *bhabar* grass in the north, is found on poor open soils along broken hillsides and open river banks; it is eaten by cattle, but its chief use is for rope-making, the string being largely used in native beds; it is an excellent material for making paper. *Rusai* (*Andropogon schoenanthus*) is easily recognised by the lemon-scented flowers and leaves. It grows on all classes of sandy and laterite soils and along hillsides; oil is not extracted from it in this District; it is a fair fodder grass when young and readily eaten by cattle. *Hupua* (*Eragrostis interrupta*) springs up in damp rice-fields all over the District after the crops have been cut, giving the whole country in February a white appearance; it is a fair fodder grass. *Bendra puchhia* (*Erogrostis major*) is a handsome grass growing in damp places, in fields and gardens; the stems grow to 2 feet in height; cattle eat it readily. *Bhurbhuria* (*Erogrostis plumosa*) is a grass eaten by cattle only when it first springs up during the rains; it grows on saline soils, drying early in December; it is a great nuisance in the forests, for it is the most inflammable of grasses. *Kānta bhairi* (*Aristida setacea*) is the white spear-grass found on poor sandy soils; it is one of the worst kinds of grass, cattle barely touching it even when green; the fine spears over an inch long of a white colour are most formidable, and will even go through leather if the surface is rough and the barb gets a hold. *Bhond* (*Anthisteria strigosa*) is a very poor, coarse and useless grass, growing to 7 and 8 feet in height; it grows on all soils on flat ground; owing to its not being cut, this grass is spreading and killing out the better kinds,

such as *gandri* ; it is a very brittle stemmed grass, easily recognised by its uniform stretches of red colour when dry, and cattle only eat it when very young ; its only use is to make a coarse mat for the walls of the houses of the poorer villagers in the forest.

WILD ANIMALS, ETC.

Wild animals.

18. *Semnopithecus entellus* (*bendrā*) is found in all parts of the District, in the forest and out of it. This monkey is considered sacred. It does great damage to crops, especially to gram and pulse. It can be tamed if taken young.

The *Macacus rhesus* (*bandar*) is not found in the District, and can only be seen with show-men who bring them round as performing monkeys.

Felis tigris (*sher*, *bāgh*) is found in all parts of the District, more especially in the forests of the north and south. Though still in numbers they are not so numerous as in days gone by ; many places that were a sure find for tiger have none now ; this is especially the case in the Banjari forests of the District. It is destructive to cattle as well as to game, but seldom to man unless wounded. Game-killing tigers are not so numerous as cattle-lifters. Man-eaters are occasionally met with ; of late years there have been no really bad man-eating tigers in the District. Tigers wander a good deal in the cold and rainy seasons, while in the hot weather they select some special spot with water handy, where they lie up during the heat of the day. They do not attain any special size in the District, a good average being 9′ 2″, between pegs, for a male. A large number are shot annually. They mate at two seasons of the year, October and November in the cold weather, and again in April and May. Gestation takes about 8 months in each case. They usually have from one to three cubs, but two is the

general rule. The cubs remain with the tigress till very nearly full-grown, and a case has been known where after the tigress and a female cub had been shot, the male cub was taken charge of by the tiger and brought up in the way he ought to go.

Felis pardus, the panther (*tenduā*, *chitwā*), is found in great numbers all over the District where there are many forests. It varies a good deal in size, and this has led to the belief among the natives of their being two kinds. Panthers are much more numerous than tigers, and consequently are more destructive to cattle. In their habits they are much more sneaking than a tiger and very much bolder, coming right into the village and carrying off dogs and goats. A man-eating panther is much more of a curse than a man-eating tiger, as he can climb a tree or *machān* and take the men out while watching their fields at night. The panther is killed by wild dogs.

Felis Jubata, the hunting leopard (*chīta*), is uncommon in the District.

Felis chaus, the jungle cat (*bán bilwā*), is common in the District, frequenting both forest and open grass country, and is very destructive to the smaller game, such as peafowl, partridge, hare and all ground game. The leopard cat, a very shy retiring animal, is also found in the dense forests, but is very uncommon.

Viverra Malaccensis, the lesser Indian civet (*bignaori*), is fairly common in the District. It feeds on small birds and animals.

Herpestes mungo, the mongoose (*newarā*), is very common throughout the District. It is not shy and will often enter village huts in search of food, and is very destructive to poultry. These animals are easily tamed and make nice pets. The brown jungle mongoose (*sāmbar newarā*) is uncommon and only found in the dense

jungles. The tree or fruit cat is not common in the District. It lives in the hollows of old trees, chiefly in old mango-groves. Though feeding on fruit, it is very destructive to birds; a case is recorded where one fruit cat killed 46 pigeons in a night in the pigeon house, almost every bird having its head bitten off.

Lutra vulgaris, the Indian otter, is not common in the District, as all the rivers have very little water in them during the hot weather. A few are found in the Seonāth river and in deep pools along some mountain streams.

Hyaena striata, the striped hyaena (*rerwā*) is found in all parts of the District. It is nocturnal in its habits, feeding chiefly on carrion, but will at times carry off dogs and goats; it has also been known to kill cattle tied up for tiger.

Canis pallipes, the Indian wolf (*hundrā*), are more numerous in this District than in Raipur, keeping to more or less open country cut up by nullahs. They do a fair amount of damage to sheep and goats while out grazing, and occasionally carry off children. Seldom more than two are seen together, the packs having been broken up.

Canis aureus, the jackal (*kolhia*), is very common in the District and is confined to the open country; he does not live in dense jungle.

Cyon Dukhunensis, the Indian wild dog (*kogwā*), is found in all the forests of the District. It is very destructive to game, which it drives away from any neighbourhood it may haunt at the time. Cattle are also killed by them, and not unfrequently the sportsman finds his ties for a tiger killed and eaten by the pack. Tiger and leopards have also been known to have been killed by them. They always hunt in packs, moving about large tracts of country in search of game under a recognised leader.

The wild dog is always fierce, even in his puppy day, and has never been known to become tame. They seldom live long in captivity. Owing to their urine being very acrid, they always have a most disagreeable smell which the skins retain sometimes for years. It is surprising that so few are killed in the District, considering the high Government reward offered. The skins of jackals painted are not unfrequently brought up for the reward given for wild dogs.

Vulpes bengalensis, the Indian fox (*khekri*), is found in all open parts of the District. It feeds chiefly on small birds and animals. It is a fine little animal, and has been known to become tame in captivity. It affords a good run with dogs in the open country, but is not such a good stayer as the jackal.

Melursus ursinus, the Indian sloth bear (*bhalwā*), is found all over the forests of the District, generally living in caves in the hot and wet weather, and in heavy grass and bushes during the cold weather. In the maḥuā and *ber* seasons, one often comes across them feeding under the trees or on their way back after their night's feed. In his movements he is very ungainly, but when disturbed can get over the country at a good pace. They are often met with in twos and even threes, mother and cubs, or a she and he-bear together; on these occasions it is most amusing to see how when one is wounded, it at once tackles its neighbour, the two having a regular set-to enabling the sportsman at times to get both. The skin of the bear is at its best during the hot season, but is difficult to cure owing to the fat which even penetrates the skin. Though shy of man, the bear can be a nasty customer when wounded, as besides using its teeth it makes most ghastly wounds with its hind claws. A she-bear with cubs is also formidable if met at close quarters. The female generally has two cubs born in January or

February. The cubs if captured young become very tame.

Lepus ruficaudatus, the Indian hare (*lamhā*, *bhathela*), is found in all forests of the District especially in bush jungle. The flesh is very fair eating except in the hot and rainy seasons, when they are more or less infested by the grub of a species of *Bot* fly.

The District, besides being infested with the common house rat and mouse, has three kinds of field rats, one rather large and resembling the Jerboa rat being much appreciated by the villagers as food. These rats are dug out of their holes along field bunds. The shrews are represented by two species, the house shrew living in houses commonly known as the musk rat, and the jungle shrew of a brown colour living in hollows of trees; this last animal makes a delightful pet when tame.

Sciurus palmarum, the common house squirrel (*khurāri*), though found all over the District, is not common. Can be tamed easily when taken young and makes a nice pet.

Sus cristatus, the Indian boar (*barahā*), is found all over the District, and is very destructive to crops. The flesh is poor, but much appreciated by the natives, who prefer it to that of any other kind of game. There are some fine boar in the forest, but owing to the bad riding ground, pigsticking cannot be enjoyed. It is a singular and interesting feature to find a boar hunt with spears depicted in the panels of an old temple at Deo Balodā, indicating that the natives once enjoyed this sport. Near Deo Balodā the ground is level and exceedingly suited for the pastime. The boars have however now disappeared from that locality.

Gazella Bennetti, the Indian gazelle (*chinkāra*), is only found in the forests to the south-west of the District.

Antilope cervicapra, the black buck (*hiran*), is not common. A few are found in the north and the west of the District, while stray animals turn up now and again in the open country. The heads are small, not running over 18 inches.

Portax pictus, the *nīlgai* (*rojrā, rojhinā*), is fairly common both in the open and dense forests of the District, especially in the former. It is generally found in small herds, seldom singly, but a grizzly old buck may at times be seen wandering about.

Tetracerus quadricornis, the four-horned antelope (*chārsingā*), is common in all forests where the grass is heavy. It is a shy animal, and, owing to its keeping to the grass, is difficult to get a shot at.

Cervulus muntjac, the muntjac or barking deer (*bhasera*), is not common, and is confined chiefly to the *sāl* areas of the Raipur District. It does not associate in herds; it travels singly, or the stag and hind may be seen together with the young. As venison the muntjac is the best of all the Indian species of deer.

Cervus axis, the spotted deer (*chītal*), is very common in all the forests of the District. It associates as a rule in herds. Preferring open forests on the outskirts close to water, it falls an easy prey to the village *shikāri* as he sits over a water hole. The horns are shed in July and August, but this shedding is extremely irregular.

Cervus duvauceli, the swamp deer (*gauni*), are not very common in the District. The belief that the greater number of the animals in these parts are a cross between the sāmbhar and real swamp deer may be quite true, as the length and thickness of horns and the colour of the animal are slightly different to those of the ordinary swamp deer of the Terai. They associate in herds, but odd males may generally be picked up in the forest.

Cervus unicolor, the sāmbhar, is found in all fairly thick forests. The mature stag is shy and is seldom found with the does except at night and early morning when feeding. During the mahuā season, one or more stags may be seen in the early morning feeding under the trees where the flowers have dropped during the night. Does and small stags very often herd together. The stags shed their horns in April, but this is not general, and some may be found with their antlers throughout the year. Good heads are seldom found in the District.

Birds.

19. There is a fair number of game birds in the District, but few are found in large numbers.

Pavo cristatus, the common peafowl, is found in all the forests of the District. Not being considered a sacred bird in these parts, it is shot by everyone. The red or common jungle cock (*Gallus ferrugineus*) is only found in the far south of the District where it occurs in fair numbers. Two kinds of spur-fowl are found; *Galloperdix spadicea*, the common red spur-fowl, is found in all forests in pairs, while the painted spur-fowl (*Galloperdix lunulata*), a shyer bird, is found only in certain stony localities. The painted francolin (*Francolinus Pictus*) is the common partridge of the District, the grey *Ortygornis Pondiceriana* being very uncommon and only found occasionally in the west of the District. *Pterocles fasciatus*, the common sand grouse, is not common in the District. *Pteloclurus exustus*, the rock or painted sand grouse, is found in pairs along stony open fire lines, and among rocks it is fairly common.

Perdicula Asiatica, the jungle or bush quail, is found in all parts of the District and is very common. Two other species of bush quail are also found. Right through the rains and cold weather, *Coturnix coromandelica* is found in the open country, while with the beginning

of the cold weather we get the grey quail in small numbers, but they only stay a short time in the District. The common bustard or button quail, *Turnix Dussumierii*, is common in the jungle grass tracks of the District.

Eupodotis Edwardsii, the *ubāra* (*hūm*), though not common, is at times met with in the grass *bhāta* plains. The green pigeon (*Corcopus phornico-pterus*) is found all over the District, while *Columba intermedia*, the blue rock-pigeon, is not nearly so common, and is met with only at times.

Though there are a number of tanks in the District, it is only a fair one for duck. Of the migratory ducks, the gadwal and blue-winged teal are the most common; the red-crested pochard, the pintail, the green-winged teal, the white-eyed pochard, and the widgeon are also found. Of ducks that remain all the year round, *Sacridiornis melanonota*, the spurred goose or *nuktā*, *Anas Poecilorhyneha*, the grey duck, *Nettopus coromandelianus*, the goose-teal, and *Dendrocygna arcuata*, the whistling teal, all occur in fair numbers; the last two build nests in trees during the rainy season. *Podiceps minor*, the dab-chick, is common and found in all tanks.

Gallinago caelestis, the common snipe, though a winter visitant, is found in fair numbers along the beds of some of the tanks. *Gallinago gallinula*, the jack snipe, may be picked up in a day's shoot.

Rhynchœa bengalensis, the painted snipe, remains throughout the year and breeds in some of the reedy tanks. In birds other than game birds the District is quite rich.

Fish.

20. The rivers and tanks are well furnished with numerous kinds of fish which are a favourite article of food among nearly all classes.

The principal varieties found are: Large variety—*parhan*, *rechhā*, *rehū*, *bausin*, *pariyans*, *kalānt*, *mundā*, *kaunchhi*, *kotrā*, *silan*, *sawar* or *sanwal*, *kusrā*. Small variety—*singan* or *kewai*, *mongri*, *kārijenwa*, *sauri*, *tengnā*, *gungwāri*, *kotri*, *bām*, *mohrāli*, *gurdā*, *phalia*, *galāj*, *kokyā*, *singi*. The most abundant are: *pariyans*, *kotrā*, *kotri* and *kokyā*. Numbers of small fish are captured during the monsoon months in the rice-fields, and sometimes in creeks filled by the backwaters of the rivers in flood. In the rice-fields wicker baskets are placed at the drainage openings of the fields. The various methods in use in the District for catching fish are as follows:—

(1) The *mahājāl*, or great fishing net, used in very large streams. Two are taken from different directions towards one central point, the fish being driven by beating the water and making a noise so as to drive the fish in the direction of the nets where they are caught. (2) The *pāt*, or long net, secured at both ends with pegs like a tennis net. Fish are driven towards it and then caught by throwing a *mahājāl*. (3) The *sokhi*, or *bhanwar jāl*, is a cast net. It has iron weights attached to it, and is thrown in the water so as to enclose a circular space about 8 to 10 feet in diameter. The outer end throughout the circumference has a lining of loose netting, which collects all the fish falling within the circle when drawn in by the rope attached to the centre of the net. (4) The *pailna*, or small net, used chiefly for taking prawns and small fish. It is a hand net fastened to a triangular frame. (5) The *halkā jāl*, or frame net. It is something like a large netting basket, the mouth being about 7 by 10 feet, stretched by two bamboo pieces crossing each other diagonally. The mouth is placed to face the stream supported by a small stick attached to the back. The water is then beaten with sticks. The fish run into it and are caught. (6) *Hariyāl* is a funnel or cone-shaped bamboo net, and is

placed over a shoal of small fish, but only one or two are caught at a time. (7) *Danwar* is a baited night or day line with several hooks attached to one string. (8) *Dhir* is a bamboo wicker work placed at the opening of the fields. (9) *Khāndi* is a cage-like bamboo trap which, like a mouse trap, lets in fish and prevents their egress. The smallest sized meshes in the District are one-fifth of an inch from knot to knot. It is impossible for the smallest fish to get out of these traps. At the close of the rains when the waters subside, fish are caught by the method known as *ulechnā*. Women partition out the shallow water with mud bunds, and with a basket throw out water from one compartment to the other. When one compartment gets very shallow they catch the fish without difficulty. The District exports fish as far as Nāgpur.

RAINFALL AND CLIMATE.

Rainfall.

21. Rainfall has been registered at Drug since 1867, but the stations of Bemetarā and Sanjāri were only established in 1907 after the constitution of the new District. The average rainfall of Drug is 47 inches, or the same as the average of Raipur District, and two inches less than that of Raipur town. Of this amount, 31 inches are received during June, July and August, 8 inches in September and October, rather more than an inch in November, December and January, and about an inch and a half during the other four months. As regards the influence of the rainfall on agriculture, the following remarks of Mr. Blenkinsop may be reproduced :[1] 'In the first period 'the rice is sown during the month of June in the dry '(*khurrā*) in black-soil after a preliminary shower or broad- 'cast in all soils, when heavy rain begins to fall by planting

[1] Settlement Report, Drug Tahsīl, para. 14.

'after germination, if the early rain is very heavy (*lehī*). 'The operation of *biāsi*, or thinning the crop by cross-'ploughing, should be carried out in the latter half of July. 'Heavy rain is necessary for this; if delayed the harvest-'ing is also put back, and if not performed at all, only 50 'per cent. of the proper yield is obtained. After *biāsi* a 'fair amount of rain is necessary for the plants to set. 'Weeding is then required and, as many cultivators have 'more land than they can efficiently manage, this opera-'tion continues well into September. There should be a 'fair amount of water in the fields for good weeding. The 'rainfall of the second period is of the utmost importance. 'If fair rain is received up to the end of September, the 'early rice is secured, but for a bumper crop another 'shower in October is required. The late rice requires 'rain in October, although in the absence of October rain, 'a fair yield may be obtained, if the late September rain 'has been heavy and embankments have been carefully 'looked after. Good rain in October also guarantees the 'spring (*unhāri*) cropping against everything but cloudy 'weather and excessive rain. With good October rain 'wheat can give a full yield, but for a bumper crop rain is 'necessary in the third period (November-January). 'Rain in December and January is harmful to other spring 'crops. Rain in the fourth period (February-May) im-'proves the grazing, enables the good cultivator to plough 'his fields, and freshens up the water-supply but often 'does damage to the crops heaped in the *bearās* (places 'for storing the crop prior to threshing and for threshing).'

Climate.

22. The climate of the District resembles that of Raipur, being hot but not unhealthy. The cold weather is mild and pleasant, and a light frost may be experienced once or twice a year, but does no harm, and is considered to benefit the spring crops. It hangs about the valleys

and along the courses of the rivers, and does not seem to injure the trees on hills of moderate height. Hail occasionally falls in February and March, but there are no crops of value to be injured at that time. Thunder-storms usually occur at the end of May or the beginning of June, and are sometimes of great violence.

CHAPTER II.

HISTORY AND ARCHÆOLOGY.

HISTORY.

Early history. The Imperial Guptas.

23. The history of the Drug District is the history of Raipur, or for the matter of that of Chhattīsgarh itself. Chhattīsgarh was formerly known as Mahākosala or Dakshin Kosala to distinguish it from the country of the same name in the north.[1] It was conquered by Samudra Gupta,[2] 'an aggressively ambitious 'monarch resolved to increase his dominions at the ex'pense of his neighbours.' This Indian Napoleon first turned his arms against the powers nearest him, and thoroughly subjugated the Rājās of the Gangetic plain, the wide region now known as Hindustān, before he embarked on his perilous adventures in the remote south. His treatment of the Rājās of the north was drastic, for we are told that they were 'forcibly rooted up,' a process which necessarily involved the incorporation of their territories in the dominions of the victor. The greater part of these northern conquests must have been completed, and the subjugated territories absorbed before Samudra Gupta ventured the invasion of the kingdoms of the south; a task which demanded uncommon boldness and masterly powers of organization and execution. The invader, marching due south from his capital, Pātliputra or Patnā, through Chutia Nāgpur, directed his first attack against the kingdom of South Kosala in the valley

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[1] North Kosala corresponded roughly with Oudh north of the Ghāgra river.

[2] V. A. Smith's Early History of India, 2nd edition, p. 267.

of the Mahānadi, and overthrew its king Mahendra. Passing on he subdued all the forest countries which still retain their ancient wildness, and constitute the tributary States of Orissa and more backward parts of the Central Provinces. This happened in the middle of the fourth century, but the Gupta rule apparently continued up to about the sixth century, administered probably by local chiefs acknowledging the overlordship of the Guptas. An inscription has recently been found at Arang which is dated in the Gupta era and belongs to the sixth century, thus showing the existence of the sovereignty of the Guptas in Chhattīsgarh. Who were the immediate successors of the Guptas in Chhattīsgarh, is not certain, but when the famous Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsiang visited Mahākosala in 639 A.D., he found a Buddhist king ruling it. This was apparently a line of kings established at Bhāndak in the Chānda District, and referred to in an inscription found there which Dr. Kielhorn has published in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society 1905, p. 617.

The Sirpur kings.

24. The Bhāndak kings appear to have been connected with those of Sirpur,[1] where several statues of Buddha have been discovered. Their rule seems to have continued up to the eighth or ninth century, although the kings of Sirpur seem to have finally changed their religion to Saivism, as appears from the various records of Mahāshiva Gupta who was a great builder of temples dedicated to Mahādeo.

The Shail kings.

25. At this time there seems to have been an encroachment made on the north of the Drug District by a dynasty called Shailvansa, or the mountain family, which has come

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1 In Raipur District.

to light by the discovery of a copper plate record by Mr. C. E. Low, Deputy Commissioner of Bālāghāt, at a village called Ragholi, situated on the borders of the Bālāghāt and the Drug Districts. This inscription is not dated, but it may be assigned to the eighth century on palæographic grounds. It records the grant of a village Khaddikā, which Mr. Hīra Lāl has identified with Khādi included in the Gandai zamīndāri of the Drug District, and at a distance of 3 miles from Ragholi, where a temple of the sun was constructed and to which the village Khādi was given. The Shailvansa kings appear to have been powerful, as it is stated that they had conquered Gujarāt, Bengal and Bihār, Benāres and the Vindhya mountains in which they finally fixed their residence. There are no data for ascertaining how far their kingdom extended in Chhattīsgarh, but there can be no doubt that Gandai was at least within their jurisdiction.

Shivadeva.

26. At Drug an inscription has been found which is now deposited in the Raipur Museum. It is undated and incomplete, but the letters belong to the eighth century. Two distinct inscriptions appear to have been engraved upon the stone. In the body of the first inscription occur the name of the king Shivadeva and also the name of the god Purushottam together with a mention of a Vaishnava temple. In the other are found the names of the Sivadurg and Sivapura associated together, which lead to the inference that there was a king named Shivadeva who ruled at Drug and gave his name or that of his tutelary deity to the fort and the town which he built.

The Haihayas.

27. There is no information as to when these dynasties and the Sirpur kings ceased to rule, but there can be little doubt that they were supplanted by the Haihayas when the latter rose to power in Chhattīsgarh. From a Ratanpur

inscription of 1114 A.D.,[1] it appears that the first king of this dynasty, who conquered Dakshin Kosala, settled in Tumān in the Bilāspur District about the tenth century A.D. He apparently adopted the aggressive policy of Samudra Gupta, and in due course subjugated the whole of Chhattīsgarh and also countries beyond its limits. In an inscription fixed in the temple of Rājim, the conquests effected by the family of Jagapāl alone range in extent from the northernmost point of Chhattīsgarh to its most southerly boundary. Jagapāl was apparently a feudatory chief of the Ratanpur Rājās and conquered countries for his overlord. The following is an account given of this inscription by the late Dr. Kielhorn, C.I.E. :—

The Rājim inscription.

28. 'By far the greater portion of our inscription 'is taken up with the genealogy 'of Jagapāl, and with a recital of 'his own military exploits as well as those of his an- 'cestors; and, apart from the manner in which it is 'dated, the inscription is valuable as furnishing a com- 'paratively large number of names of places and districts, 'most of which still await identification, and because 'of the references which it contains, to the reigns of the 'princes Jājalladeva, Ratnadeva and Prithvīdeva, known 'to us also from other inscriptions. As regards the 'genealogical and historical portion, the inscription 'opens by describing the *Thakkura*, the illustrious Sāhilla, 'the spotless ornament of the illustrious Rājamāla race, 'which gave delight to the Panchahamsa race, as having 'gone forth from the Vadahara country, and as having 'been gladdened by the attainment of the *panchamahā- 'sabda*, and furnished with a banner, the flag of which 'had the lustrous appearance presented by a fire-fly

[1] Epigraphia Indica, vol. I, p. 34.

'sitting on a golden jar (?). This Sāhilla, who made 'valorous chiefs tremble, and became lord of the land 'which he acquired on the battle-field, had a younger 'brother named Vāsudeva, and three sons, Bhāyila, 'Desala and Svāmin, who conquered the Bhattavila '(or Bhattavala) and Vihārā countries. Svāmin had 'two sons, of whom the elder one, named Jayadeva, 'acquired the District of Dāndora, while Devasimha, 'the younger son, took the Komo *mandala*. The in-'scription goes on to mention a noble lady, the *Thak-'kurājni* Udayā, who, to judge from the way in which 'she is introduced, must have been the wife of one of the 'two last-named chiefs, and the mother of Jagapāl 'whose exploits are described further on. Afraid of 'him, the valorous Māyurikas and the Sāvantas, who 'are called lords of *mandalas*, betook themselves to the 'mountains. Moreover, during the reign of the illus-'trious lord Jājalladeva, Jagapāl conquered a country, 'the name of which I am unable to make out; and, 'during the reign of the illustrious prince Ratnadeva, 'he acquired the Talahāri country and another district, 'about the name of which I likewise am doubtful. But 'Jagapāl's chief exploits appear to fall within the reign 'of the prince Prithvīdeva, when he not only took 'the forts Saraharāgarh and Mavakāsiha-(vā), and 'conquered the Bhramaravadra country, but also took 'Kāntāra, Kusumabhoga, Kāndāse(hva)ra, and the 'District of Kākayara. Jagapāl would seem to have 'founded or rebuilt the town Jagapālapur, which is 'mentioned in a verse which I am unable to explain 'properly. Further on we learn he had two younger 'brothers, Gājala and Jayatsimha; and, if I under-'stand the words rightly, we are finally told that, during 'the reigns of the three princes mentioned above, the 'post of prime minister was held by Deorāja, together

'with whom the three brothers Jagapāl, Gājala and 'Jayatsimha subdued the earth.

'From this brief abstract it will appear that, as 'was seen already by Sir A. Cunningham, Jagapāl and 'his ancestors were petty chiefs, generals or feudatories 'of the Ratanpur branch of the Chedi rulers, whom 'they helped to extend their territory. Most of the 'places and districts mentioned (some of which are 'mentioned also in other inscriptions) must undoubted-'ly be looked for in the eastern portion of the Central 'Provinces, but I have not succeeded in identifying 'more than one or two on the maps at my disposal. 'Kākayara has by Sir A. Cunningham been shown to be 'the modern Kānker, which is a chiefship situated to 'the south of the Raipur District; and it is possible 'that the concluding portion of the name which I read 'Kāndāse(hva)ra, may be identical with Sehāwa or 'Sihoa, situated to the east of Kānker. Saraharāgarh 'I take to be the modern Sārangarh, to the east of Raipur; 'and, if this identification be right, the name Bhramara-'vadra would appear to have survived in Bāmra, the 'name of a feudatory State attached to the Sambalpur 'District, to the east of Sārangarh. The tribal name 'Rājamāla of Jagapāl has by Sir A. Cunningham been 'adduced to explain the origin of the name of the town 'Rājim, where the inscription is, and where Jagapāl 'or his ancestors may be supposed to have resided.'

Places mentioned in the Rājim inscription identified.

29. Mr. Hīra Lāl, who has had the advantage of seeing the original inscription and of having some acquaintance with the Chhattīsgarh country, would read and identify certain places somewhat differently. The family of Jagapāl came originally from Vadahara, a place south of the Ganges in the Mirzāpur District of the United Provinces. They

were apparently petty chiefs there who began to expand their power and naturally first conquered other petty neighbouring chiefs. The first country which came to their hand was Bhattavilla or Baghelkhand, and the next one Viharā not yet identified, but it must have been in the neighbourhood of Rewah. Their next acquisition was that of the District of Dāndora, which may be identified with Surgujā once known as Bais Dāndor, as it included 22 zamīndāris; after this they seem to have entered the boundaries of the Bilāspur District by taking Komo *mandala* which is in the Pendrā zamīndāri of the Bilāspur District, and not very far away from Tumān, the ancient capital of the Haihayas or from Ratanpur the later capital. After acquiring a footing in the Komo *mandala*, they seem to have sought for an alliance with the Ratanpur Rājās, whom they accepted as their overlords and with whom they probably took service and apparently intermarried. It is after this that other countries were conquered by them for the Ratanpur Rājās, all of which appear to be situated within the boundaries of the Chhattīsgarh Division. The Māyurikas, who were the people of Mayurbhanja, a tributary State of Chotā Nāgpur in which the firm of Tata has opened its famous iron factory, and the Sāvantas who were apparently the ancestors of Saontās, an aboriginal tribe in Bilāspur, were evidently obnoxious people who at the advent of Jagapāl betook themselves to the mountains. Jagapāl proceeded to conquer the aboriginal people, and the first country he took, and of which Dr. Kielhorn says he is unable to make out the name, was, as Mr. Hīra Lāl reads, Tamnāl with Rāth and Teram. Tamnāl is the present Tamnār of Raigarh State to the north of which lies the tract of what is known as Rāth and which also forms a part of the Raigarh State. Teram is also close by and within Raigarh limits. These tracts are to the east of Ratanpur. Jaga-

pāl next turned his attention to the west to Sindūramāngu and Talhāri country, Sarharāgarh and Mavakāsihawā (which Mr. Hīra Lāl reads as Machkāsihawā), Bhramarvadra, Kāntāra, Kusumbhoga, Kāndāsihvā (which is certainly a misreading for Kāndā dongar) and Kākaraya. Differing from Dr. Kielhorn, Mr. Hīra Lāl identifies these as follows: Sindūramāngu is probably Sindurāgiri, the ancient name of Rāmtek, where there is an inscription showing that the place was once under the rule of the Haihayas.[1] Talhāri may be identical with the Gandai zamīndāri[2] in the north of the Drug District. There is a deserted village in the zamīndāri of which the name was Talhali. After conquering these, Jagapāl apparently proceeded south conquering Sarharāgarh[3] which General Cunningham identified with Sorar; thence he proceeded further south to Machkāsihāwa or the present Sihāwa tract in which there is a place called Mechkā, which name the neighbouring tract also bears. Bhramarvadra cannot be identified unless it is Bhramarkūta which was a name of the tract near Jagdalpur in the Bastar State. Thus it would appear that Jagapāl, while he kept penetrating to the south, annexed countries round those he conquered. For instance, he took Kākaraya the present Kānker to the west of Sihāwa and Kāndādongar to the east. The latter is a tract still going by that name in the south of the Bindrā-Nawāgarh zamīndāri. In the Sanjāri tahsīl and towards Deobhog in the Bindrā-Nawāgarh zamīndāri,

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1 See Indian Antiquary, 1908, p. 204.

2 This is doubtful in view of the fact that an inscription which was found fixed to the Bādal Mahal inside the Ratanpur fort recited, 'This beautiful Talhāri *mandala* is an ornament of the world.' This would make it identical with the tract in which Ratanpur itself is situated. Sinduramāngu would then be Sindūrapāli, as the context shows that it was in the vicinity of Talhāri.

3 In the Bilāspur District there is a village named Sarhar with a ruined fort. So if Talhāri was the Ratanpur country Sarharāgarh may be the Sarhar of Bilāspur.

there are many places going by the name of Kusum, such as Kusumkasa, Kusumkhūnta, Kusumpāni, Kusum Gauhān, Kusumjor, etc., which lead to the inference that Kusumbhog must have been somewhere near them. No clue is available for Kāntāra, but it may be the Mahākāntāra mentioned in the Allahābād pillar inscription of Samudra Gupta who conquered the king of that country in the fourth century A.D. referred to above. It will be seen that some of the chiefs mentioned above lived in the present Drug District. The local tradition is that Jagapāl himself lived in Drug and ruled the country round about under the suzerainty of the Ratanpur kings.

Division of the Haihayas.

30. Finally there was a split in the Ratanpur house. According to local chronicles the kingdom is said to have been divided into Northern and Southern Chhattīsgarh, the former being retained by Sūradeva with his capital in the Bilāspur District, while the latter was bestowed on the younger brother Brahmadeva who established his capital in the Raipur District. This event is placed at about 1000 A.D., but General Cunningham assigns it to the end of the fourteenth century during the reign of Rājā Brahmadeva, in connection with whom two inscriptions have been discovered, one at Raipur, dated in 1402 A.D., and the other at Khalāri, dated in 1414 A.D. The date 1000 is evidently wrong, as it was about this time that the Haihayas first established their rule in Chhattīsgarh (in spite of local traditions assigning them an antiquity of thousands of years). Mr. Hīra Lāl's opinion is that this division of kingdom took place two generations before Brahmadeva, during the time of his grandfather Simhana, who is spoken of in the Khalāri inscription as 'having conquered eighteen strongholds of adver-

saries.'[1] It should be remembered that the tradition is that Chhattīsgarh was divided into two parts containing 18 *garhs* each; the epithet quoted above for Simhana indicates that he revolted against the senior house who opposed him, and wrested from them 18 *garhs* for himself. It however appears that the Raipur branch did not altogether become independent though temporarily they might have assumed that position. In 1869, Mr. Hewett[2] wrote 'that as in the 'lists of territories and tributary States dated 1583 'Samvat (1526 A.D.), and still extant, the parganas of 'the Raipur District are entered among the estates 'under immediate control of the Government, it 'would appear that the rulers of Raipur were entirely 'subordinate to the head of the family at Ratanpur. 'This abstract statement of the territories and reve-'nues of the Ratanpur kingdom purports to have 'been drawn up by the order of Kalyān Sen (Sahai), a 'prince who appears to have been among the best of the 'dynasty, as his name is well known and revered in 'the District. He is said to have been taken to Delhi 'and to have lived there for eleven years, during which 'time he stood very high in favour of Akbar.' This clearly shows that some sort of overlordship was acknowledged by the Raipur branch. The last Rājā of this branch was Amarasimhadeva, who was ousted by the Marāthās in 1753, when they annexed the territories held by the Haihayas for about 800 years.

Inclusion of part of the District in Kānker.

31. It may be noted that the southern portion of the District continued to be ruled by the Kānker chief who was a tributary of the Haihayas. There is an inscription at Gurur which mentions the name

1 Epigraphia Indica, vol. ii, p. 229.
2 Raipur Settlement Report, p. 16.

of the Kākair chief Bāghrāja who flourished in the twelfth or thirteenth century A.D.

The Sahaspur and other chiefs.

32. About the same time another chief Yasah Karnadeva was ruling in the north in Sahaspur-Lohāra, where he has left an inscription dated in the year 1182 A.D. Dhamdā had been given to Gonds of Sardhā, who afterwards became unruly and at times defied the sovereign power. Bālod is also believed to have had a separate king of its own, but it also finally went to the Gonds, and the Pānabāras zamīndār claims to be a descendant of the latter. At Sorar a Kalār Rājā is said to have ruled. It would thus appear that the country was divided into petty principalities, and a relic of the old state of things may be found in the comparatively large number of zamīndāris which the District possesses.

The Marāthās.

33. The first Marāthā invasion took place in A.D. 1741 when Bhāskar Panth, while on his way to attack Bengal, defeated Raghunāth Singh, the representative of the older branch of the Haihayavansī dynasty, at Ratanpur, but neither he nor Mohan Singh, who was put in charge of Chhattīsgarh by Raghujī Bhonsla, Rājā of Nāgpur, in 1745, seems to have at first interfered with Amar Singh, representative of the younger branch ruling at Raipur. The latter continued to administer the government till 1750, when he was quietly ousted and received for his maintenance Rājim, Raipur and Pātan (included in this District), for which he paid a yearly tribute of Rs. 7000. On his death in 1753 his son Seorāj Singh was absent on a pilgrimage, and the Marāthā government confiscated the parganas, but, when Bimbāji, the younger brother of Jānoji the heir of Raghujī, assumed the government in 1757, he gave Seorāj Singh the village of Bargaon in the Mahāsamund tahsīl free of revenue, and one rupee on

every village formerly owned by his ancestors for his maintenance. This arrangement continued till 1822 when in lieu of one rupee on every village in the District, Raghunāth Singh, son of Seorāj Singh, received four other villages near Bargaon free of revenue, which Udai Singh, the present representative, continues to enjoy. When the Marāthās undertook the government of the country, decay had already in all probability reduced it to a state very much inferior to that which it had attained during the earlier days of the Haihayavansī rule. The aboriginal tribes had caused many disorders. After the assumption of the government of Chhattīsgarh by Bimbāji, however, order was maintained though chiefly by the strong hand of military rule. On his death in 1787, his widow Anandi Bai managed the country for a year, and was succeeded by a Sūbahdār Vithal Diwākar who is said to have introduced a form of pargana accounts in the village system known to the Marāthās. After his time the government seems to have degenerated into anarchy; insurrections were, as it is stated by Col. Agnew, frequent and the revenue was raised threefold. The character of the administration may be judged from the description of Major Agnew in 1819, who says that, 'the country 'presented one uniform scene of plunder and oppression 'uninfluenced by any considerations but that of collect-'ing, by whatever means, the largest amount possible.'

British administration.

34. After the deposition of Appa Sāhib in 1818, the country was taken under British superintendence during the minority of the younger Raghujī, and Captain Edmonds was the first officer put in charge of Chhattīsgarh. He, however, had scarcely succeeded in putting down the disturbances in Dongargarh in the west of the District, when he died a few months after his arrival, and was succeeded by Col. Agnew. This officer, whose name

is still well remembered throughout the country, was Superintendent from 1818 to 1825. His first task on assuming charge was to put down the pretended heirs of the Gond Rājā of Dhamdā who had rebelled, and to compel the Binjhwār chief of Sonākhān to give up the Government lands he had usurped during the disturbances. Having restored peace and adjusted the large balances of revenue shown as due in the Marāthā accounts, he proceeded to organise the civil administration. In doing so his leading principle was to work as much as possible through the people themselves, and under his mild but firm administration the country rapidly began to improve.

Reintroduction of the Marāthā rule.

35. From 1830 till 1854 when Chhattīsgarh with the rest of the dominions of the Nāgpur Rājā lapsed to the British Government, Chhattīsgarh was governed by Sūbahs, but the general system followed was the same as that organised by Col. Angew. The country seems to have been on the whole well administered, and it ought to have improved rapidly had it not been for the famines of 1836 and 1844 which checked the increase of the population and ruined many villages. However on the whole progress was made and the District was in a much more flourishing condition when taken over in 1854 than when Col. Agnew received charge in 1818.

Introduction of the British rule in 1854 and subsequent administration.

36. The first officer appointed to the charge of Chhattīsgarh after the annexation was Captain Elliott. His jurisdiction, of which the limits were the same as in the time of Col. Agnew, included not only the whole of Chhattīsgarh but also Bastar, an extent of country which necessitated at first the continuance of a system

of patriarchal Government similar to that instituted by Col. Agnew; but from 1856, when the country was divided into three tahsīls, *viz.*, Dhamtarī, Raipur and Bilāspur, a more regular system began to be introduced. In 1857 Drug which was attached to Bhandāra in 1817 was made a tahsīl. and in 1861 Bilāspur was separated from Raipur, and in 1863 a fourth tahsīl at Simgā was added. Thus the District of Raipur contained four tahsīls until 1906 when Drug was constituted a separate District with three tahsīls, *viz.*, the old Drug tahsīl of Raipur and two others Bemetarā and Sanjāri, from tracts taken from Raipur, Bilāspur and Chānda Districts. During the Mutiny there was no disturbance in any portion of the newly constituted District. In fact the old Raipur District suffered but little, the only disturbances being those which were excited by Nārāyan Singh of Sonākhān. He was hanged in 1858 and his estate confiscated.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæological remains.

37. The most ancient archæological remains in this District appear to be the large upright stones arranged in rows and surrounded by stone circles or heaps of stones, which though now scattered indicate the existence of separate heaps. They are found in Sorar and the adjoining villages of Chirchari, Karhībhadar, Majhgahan and Kakrābhat. They are apparently tomb stones of the Dravidian tribes such as are found in large numbers towards Chotā Nāgpur and Assam. Similar tombs are found in the Nāgpur Division with this difference that there is no central stone in them. While digging near these tombs in Karhībhadar some iron implements with pieces of thick earthern jars have been found, articles which may be expected in ancient graves of aborigines. These stones may belong to about the



Bemrose, Collo., Derby.

OLD TEMPLE FROM SOUTH-EAST, DEO-BALODA.

beginning of the Christian era, about which time Buddhism was apparently prevalent at Drug itself, as is indicated by the discovery of a stone with Pāli characters. Numerous stone stools, usually met with in places where Buddhism flourished, are also found in Drug and the adjoining villages. They are usually now collected in heaps to which vermilion is applied, and they are worshipped as the goddess of small-pox. There is a *sati* pillar inscription at Bālod, the characters of which appear to be of the fourth century A.D. This pillar has served thrice as a *sati* stone, one of the inscriptions on it being of the eleventh century A.D. Among other remains of the District may be mentioned the temples at Deo Balodā, Deokar, Nagpurā, Banbard, Bālod, Sorar, Gurur, Sahaspur and Drug. Most of them have fallen down and their materials have been taken away and utilised for various purposes. The best preserved is the temple of Deo Balodā which contains some beautiful sculptures. Outside there are some panels representing a boar hunt with spears. Drug, Bālod, Dhamdā, Sardhā, Sorar and Dondī contain remains of forts and some old tanks near them. Gurur has an inscription of the time of a Kānker king named Bāghrāja, while Sahaspur has one of Yasah Karna, and the one found at Drug apparently of king Shivadeva is now deposited in the Raipur Museum. There are mutilated inscriptions at Sorar, Bālod and Deokar which are unintelligible. At Chaurel in the Gundardehī zamīndāri there are a number of statues of gods and goddesses and this completes the list of the few archæological remains which this District contains.

On the first constitution of the District, the Gundardehī Revenue Inspector's circle, comprising the Gundardehī zamīndāri and 35 mālguzāri villages, had been attached to the Sanjāri tahsīl, but on the transfer of the Chānda zamīndāris it was again made over to the Drug tahsīl. Sanjāri tahsīl is the largest in area, and Bemetarā in population.

Density of population.

40. The total density of population is 146 square miles as against 120 for British Districts of the Central Provinces and Berār. The open plain country of Drug was in 1891 about the most thickly populated rural area in the Province, but it suffered a considerable loss of population in the famines. The density of Drug tahsīl is now 209 persons per square mile, that of Bemetarā 154, and that of Sanjāri 106. The District contains one town, Drug, and 2432 inhabited and 328 uninhabited villages. The population of Drug in 1901 was 4002 persons, but the addition of the official community with the different classes who accompany it, has probably raised it to more than 5000. Besides Drug, the District has only two villages, Dhamdā (2647) and Nawāgarh (2496), containing more than 2000 persons and 36 villages with a population of between 1000 and 2000. Of the inhabited villages, 813 contain less than 100 persons.

Movement of population.

41. No statistics of population can be given prior to 1891, but the open portion of the Chhattīsgarh plain has been fully populated for a fairly long period. The population of the present District in 1891 was 813,621 persons, and the decrease during the next decade was 136,362 persons or 17 per cent. The decrease was 15 per cent. in Drug, 17 per cent. in Bemetarā, and 17 per cent. in Sanjāri. The new District contains those portions of the Chhattīsgarh plain which were most severely

affected between 1896 and 1900. The stretch of black-soil lying beneath the Sātpurā hills round Dhamdā and Nawāgarh suffered from continually inadequate rainfall during the decade from 1890 to 1900. Since the census the birth-rate has been very favourable, but the District will take some time to recover from the effects of the famines. There has also recently been little or no immigration, and in 1901 about 95 per cent. of the population were shown as having been born in the area where they reside. But in recent years many Chamārs and others of the labouring classes have emigrated in search of work on the railways and in the coal-mines of Bengal. The Chamārs especially, owing to the contempt with which they are regarded by their Hindu neighbours, and the perpetual state of feud which has arisen between them, have strong inducements to leave the place of their birth and seek a more tolerable existence elsewhere.

Diseases.

42. The District suffers severely from malaria, more especially in the southern and western tracts which are heavily wooded, while in the drier black-soil country to the north the disease is less prevalent. Epidemics of cholera have been severe and frequent in past years, but since 1900 the disease has been absent until the closing months of 1906. Outbreaks of small-pox are also fairly frequent. Diseases of the eyes are common in the hot weather months and are aggravated by the swarms of small flies which appear at that season and especially attack the eyes. Skin diseases are also common and their prevalence is no doubt largely due to the habit of using the same tank for the watering of cattle, the washing of clothes, for bathing, and for the supply of drinking-water. Leprosy is also common and probably arises from the same causes and the generally uncleanly habits of the Chamārs.

A few cases of lathyrism or paralysis arising from the consumption of the pulse tiurā (*Lathyrus sativus*) were noticed after the famine of 1900. In Drug town some cases of elephantiasis of the leg are noticed among the people living on the bank of the moat round the old fort. Venereal disease is more prevalent than in the northern Districts, but is not particularly virulent in form. Plague appeared for the first time in indigenous form in Drug town in 1907 and caused 70 deaths.

Occupation.

43. In 1901, four-fifths of the entire population were shown as dependent on pasture and agriculture, and this proportion probably represents fairly accurately the existing state of the District's development. Of the remaining one-fifth also a considerable proportion consists of the village artisans and menials who are directly dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. The District is altogether without important industries.

Language.

44. The principal language of the District is the Chhattīsgarhī dialect of Eastern Hindī, which is spoken by more than 90 per cent. of the population. Towards Bālāghāt, Chhattīsgarhī is known as Khaltahī from the name of Khaloti or lowlands, applied by the dwellers on the Maikal range to the Chhattīsgarh plain. Chhattīsgarhī, Mr. Hīra Lāl states, greatly resembles its sister dialect of Baghelī, but being surrounded by Uriyā on one side and Marāthī on the other, it has been somewhat influenced by these two languages. The addition of the termination *man* to form the plural comes from the Uriyā *māne*, as *manukh*, a man, *manukh man*, men. The post-position *lā* meaning to or for, is borrowed from Marāthī, as *molā*, for me, *ghodā lā*, to the horse. The syllables *ech* and *och* meaning even and also respectively, are profusely used in ordinary conversation. Thus *dai-ch-kā*, even to the mother, *tor-och*,

thine also. A full notice of Chhattīsgarhī is contained in the Raipur and Bilāspur District Volumes. Baghelī is spoken by 29,000 persons principally in the north of the District, and Marāthī by about 17,000 to the west. The figures of Marāthī-speakers include the Halbās, who have a dialect of their own compounded from Marāthī, Uriyā and Chhattīsgarhī. Gondī is returned by about 7000 persons.

RELIGION.

Religion—Village gods and priests.

45. The statistics of religion show that Hindus constitute nearly 90 per cent. of the population and Animists about 9 per cent. The number of Muhammadans is insignificant. Chhattīsgarhī Brāhmans act as the priests of all castes except Chamārs, Mehrās, and Ghasias. The *purohit* or village priest has a clientèle extending over one or more villages. He often receives a piece of land from the mālguzār rent free and also small contributions from the tenants for the services which he performs. He gives names to children out of his almanac and officiates on behalf of the village at the principal Hindu festivals. The Baigā is another village priest, and is usually a Gond or Pardhān, as there are no real Baigās in Drug. But as the Baigās commonly act as priests in Gond villages, in virtue of their being the oldest residents and being supposed to have a more intimate knowledge of the local deities, the name of the tribe has become attached to the office. Vishnu or Parmeshwar is the favourite Hindu deity, and Sītalā Devī or the goddess of small-pox is the principal of the village gods, small-pox being the most dreaded calamity from which the community suffers. Pilgrimages are frequently made and are a source of considerable expenditure among all classes. Rājim is the principal holy

place of the locality, and those who desire a longer excursion go to Orissa or Benāres. A large section of the population belong to the Kabīrpanthī and Satnāmi sects, a description of which is given in the Bilāspur and Raipur Volumes. For information on the village deities and the beliefs in witchcrafts and kindred superstitions which make up the bulk of the religion of the people of Chhattīsgarh, reference may also be made to these volumes. The principal Christian Mission is the station of the German Lutheran Church at Chandkhurī, founded in 1885, and now consisting of a community more than 1000 strong. The chief institution connected with it is a leper asylum supported by 'The Mission to Lepers in India and the East,' which is managed by a member of the mission. It is one of the largest asylums in India and contains more than 400 adult lepers. There are also separate homes for tainted and untainted children containing 20 and 80 inmates respectively. It has been decided to transfer the Government Leper Asylum at Nāgpur and attach it to the Chandkhurī asylum. The mission also supports schools for boys and girls at Chandkhurī and some out-stations. The Methodist Episcopal Church has a mission station at Drug, and the American Mennonite Mission at Dhamtarī has an out-station at Bālod. The Pentecostal Mission Band supports a school at Baterā.

CASTE.

General notice.

46. The Chamārs are the most numerous caste in the District and are found all over the open country, and next to them come the Gonds who belong to the north-western and south-western zamīndāris. In Pānabāras and Korācha and the forest tracts of the northern zamīndāris, the Gonds constitute the majority of the population and are

still very backward and primitive in their customs. Pānabāras and Korācha do not properly belong to the Chhattīsgarh country, but rather resemble Bastar, and here the Māria Gonds, the wildest section of the tribe, are met with. Some of the forest Gonds display considerable skill in cultivation. Mr. Hemingway writes of them :[1] 'In the jungle curiously enough, the Gonds 'are intelligent cultivators, and very hard-working. 'They take great care of their fields, turn nullahs into '*jhīls* with large masonry sluices, and take the trouble 'to replough their rice-land for the second crop.' Most of the zamīndārs are Rāj-Gonds. Of other aboriginal tribes, a few Kawars may be found in the north and Halbās in the south, but these latter at any rate are comparatively civilised and scarcely to be distinguished from Hindus. Some Halbā proprietors are found in the Sanjāri tahsīl and do fairly well, while Halbā cultivators and labourers have a good name for industry. The principal cultivating castes are the Kurmīs and Telis. Mr. Blenkinsop describes them as 'The backbone of a 'tenantry that is on the whole good, though till recently 'somewhat spoilt by prosperity and tending towards in- 'dolence, careless cultivation and want of forethought.' The Kurmīs are perhaps the better cultivators, but the Telis have more capacity for economical management and for saving money. Along the banks of the numerous streams which water the valleys of the Khārun and Seonāth, are settled colonies of Kewats and Marārs who grow melons and vegetables in the stretches of sand in the river beds. The Rāwats, who are herdsmen and private servants, are a fairly numerous class and own about 40 villages. The principal castes of proprietors are the Brāhmans who have 350 villages, the Kurmīs 300, the Telis

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[1] Preliminary Report on the Dhamtarī Tahsīl (1905), p. 3.

175, the Rājputs and Baniās 160 each, and the Chamārs, Marāthās and Lodhīs about 70 each. Many of the mālguzārs, Mr. Blenkinsop states, are very wealthy, especially the Kurmīs and Brāhmans; the Agarwāl Baniās have large estates, but they are indebted owing to litigation. The Lodhīs are probably immigrants from Bālāghāt, while the Marāthās obtained their estates during the rule of the Bhonsla dynasty of Nāgpur in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The Marāthā mālguzārs belong principally to the Sanjāri tahsīl. A description of all the principal castes of the District from an ethnographic point of view is given in the Raipur and Bilāspur District Volumes, to which references may be made. But the following remarks of Mr. Blenkinsop on the Chamārs deserve insertion here:[1] 'The Chāmars have during recent years been 'at their worst. They seem to be subject to no 'moral scruples or restraint. Very few of them have 'any real respect for their *guru*, and to lie, steal, 'destroy cattle and commit arson are everyday affairs; 'while the bolder spirits indulge in burglaries, dacoi'ties and violent assaults. I do not say that they 'are all as bad as this, and I have come across many 'Chamārs who were respectable and pleasant to meet, 'but I do say that in any village where Chamārs predom'inate, it is an even chance that the village is in a bad 'condition, the mālguzār an absentee or without the 'least influence, and if the cattle of the village are 'spared, there will be losses of cattle in the surrounding 'villages. Other castes are so afraid of attracting to 'themselves the special enmity of the Chamārs, who are 'very clannish, that they will often not make any 'complaint.'

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[1] Drug Tahsīl Settlement Report (1903), p. 44.

SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS.

Marriage, birth and death.

47. The description of the social customs of the people of Chhattīsgarh, given in the Raipur and Bilāspur District Gazetteers, is equally applicable to Drug. Reference may be made to the Raipur Volume for a description of the houses, clothes and food of the people, and to the Bilāspur Volume for information on the ceremonies attendant on marriages, births and deaths. Marriage festivities usually last for three days, being held for two days at the bride's house and one day at the bridegroom's, when the latter's party gives a big feast. As a rule a price is paid for the bride, sometimes amounting to a large sum, while the minimum is stated to be seven pieces of cloth and five rupees. These are used in the marriage ceremony, while the bride's mother takes the best piece of cloth. At the wedding the bridegroom smears vermilion on the parting of the bride's hair. Among the lower classes the marriage is often held at the bridegroom's house when the expenditure is much less. It is stated locally that the Brāhmans, Rājputs, Sonārs, Tamerās and Agarwāl Baniās do not recognise widow marriage, and among them if a widow lives with another man she is put out of caste. All other castes allow it, and the custom of the Levirate, by which the widow is expected to marry her deceased husband's younger brother, is generally recognised. If a widow goes on a pilgrimage she must shave her head clean, but otherwise on the twentieth day after her husband's death she shaves only a line of a finger's breadth along her forehead, at the same time removing her bangles and ornaments. She may, however, subsequently replace her earrings and a necklace and the bangles on her wrists, but she may not

wear any ornaments on her feet. She should confine herself to white clothes, but occasionally she puts on tasar silk cloth of a neutral colour. A married woman should not wear a cloth wholly white, as this is the dress of widows and is therefore unlucky. But she may wear a white cloth with a coloured border. Women accompany the marriage procession among the Baniās, some sub-castes of Rāwats, the Halbās and the Gonds, but not among other castes. When the signs of puberty appear in a girl for the first time, she is secluded for three days, during which time she is impure. The treatment of women in childbirth is still most barbarous in Chhattīsgarh, though more humane methods are gradually being adopted. But among the middle and lower castes, a woman still receives no food or drink whatever for three days after the birth of a child, and no proper nourishment for six days. The dead are usually buried, cremation being only in vogue among the highest castes, and with the others being awarded as a special distinction to heads of families and other persons of note. The Brāhmans, Rājputs and Baniās bury only the bodies of children under seven years old and burn all others. The Kabīrpanthīs always bury their dead, as well as all the Chamārs and the lower castes generally.

Houses, clothes and food.

48. The people live in families in Chhattīsgarh to a larger extent than elsewhere. The house consists of an enclosure containing a number of huts for the separate use of married sons, and sometimes for farm-servants and other dependants. Clothing is of a very simple nature. The women wear nothing but a single *lugrā* or cloth, dispensing altogether with the *cholī* or breast-cloth. They change this after bathing and also sleep in it. The men have sometimes only one narrow strip of cloth round the loins, which is known as *langotī ;* but it is be-

coming more usual to afford two *patkās* or short cloths, one of which serves as a loin-cloth, while the other is twisted round the head. In the rains the cultivators protect themselves with huge leaf umbrellas, and a collection of them standing beneath these in the scanty attire described above, presents a comical appearance. The wives of landowners have gold earrings and nose-rings, a *sarā* or necklace of hollow beads of gold filled with lac, *kaknis* or thick silver bangles on the wrists, and *guzrī* or armlets. Only the wives of rich men wear a *kamarpattā* or silver belt. On the forehead they have a *patinā* or ornament of three pieces of gold, and on the legs the old-fashioned *chūras* or heavy rings of brass have been superseded by *torās* or linked anklets, which are made in silver, zinc or German silver. Only the wives of *mandals* or well-to-do tenants formerly wore nose-rings, but Chamār women have now adopted them as an act of defiance to the Hindus. The common practice is to eat three meals a day, rice and pulse at midday, rice and vegetables cooked with *ghī* or clarified butter in the evening, and rice gruel in the morning before commencing work. This last is called *bāsi* and consists simply of the remains of the previous night's repast mixed with water and taken cold. Some men are said to get through three pounds of rice a day. Practically all castes will eat meat, except the Mārwāri Baniās who are recent immigrants. Even the Brāhmans have hitherto taken flesh, though they are now giving it up. The Kurmīs do not eat fowls, and sometimes also the Telis, but all castes below these consume them. The Gonds, Rāwats and Halbās will eat field-mice and rats, even those caught in the houses, while the Gonds will also eat wild-cat. The Chamārs, it is said, abstain from all kinds of flesh except that of four-legged animals, but they will eat the flesh of dead cattle. Abstention from liquor is fairly general even

among the lower classes. The Satnāmis and Kabīrpanthīs are forbidden by their religion to take it, and they are imitated by many members of the cultivating castes.

LEADING FAMILIES.

The zamīndāris.

49. The District has thirteen zamīndāri estates, two of which, Pānabāras and Aundhī, are held by the same proprietor. The zamīndāris lie to the north-west and south-west, and contain a total of about 1200 villages or nearly half that of the District, but their population is only 22 per cent. of the District total. With the exception of the proprietor of Gundardehī, who is a Kawar, and of Khujjī, who is a Muhammadan, all the zamīndārs are Rāj-Gonds. The four estates, Ambāgarh-Chaukī, Pānabāras, Aundhī, and Korācha, transferred from the Chānda District, were formerly held on grants from the Gond Kings of Chānda. The five estates of Thākurtolā, Gandai, Barbaspur, Silheti and Dondī-Lohāra were known as the Khaloti zamīndāris, and were once fiefs of the Mandlā kingdom. The other estates were included in the territories of the Haihaya Rājput dynasty of Ratanpur. Outside the zamīndāris the principal proprietary castes are Brāhmans, Kurmīs, Telis, Rājputs and Baniās.

Brāhman families.

50. Though the Brāhmans are the largest landholders they do not include many families of note. The proprietor of Kusmi is a leading representative of the caste, his ancestor Nandrām having come from Northern India through Rewah about two centuries ago. He settled in the village of Berā, and his son Takhat Rām acquired some 50 villages, which are now divided among different branches of the family. Pandit Rāmadhīn of Kusmi

holds five villages. He is known locally as Parganihā, or head of a pargana, a title conferred on the family by the Bhonsla Government, and having the same signification as the Deshmukh of the Marāthā Districts. The Marāthā Brāhman family of Nandol has been in the District for about a century, an ancestor having come from Rāmtek to Chhattīsgarh to work as an *amīn* or surveyor. Amrit Rao of Nandol now has nine villages. The Hindustāni Brāhman family of Andhiyārkhor who possess six villages, belonged formerly to Cawnpore.

Kurmī families.

51. Among the Kurmīs the proprietors of Bimbhori are the most prominent. Jagdeo Singh of Bimbhori has four villages in the Bemetarā tahsīl and has recently purchased the Sonākhān estate in Raipur. This estate was confiscated for the misconduct of the zamīndār of Sonākhān in the Mutiny, and was subsequently sold to a European firm which owned it for many years and prospected for gold, but as the outturn was not encouraging, finally parted with the estate. Sonākhān literally means gold mine. Jagdeo Singh's brother, Tulārām, is a graduate of Calcutta University and a Tahsīldār in Government service. The Kurmīs of Thanod were formerly managers of the Bālod and Sanjāri parganas. Santokh Singh of Thanod has 14 villages, and has obtained the Kaisar-i-Hind medal of the second class. The proprietor of Kathotia in the Bemetarā tahsīl, Rāmsahai Kurmī, has nine villages and is considered to be a good landlord. The Kurmī proprietor of Khanda, Tejrām, is the local leader of the caste. His ancestor collected supplies for the Bhonsla army during an invasion of Bastar and was rewarded with a grant of property. The family have now four villages.

Baniā families.

52. Among the Baniās the family of Gopāl Singh of Jāmul is of some historical importance. His grandfather, Jagat Singh, was Negi or steward of the Khairāgarh State. He fled from the State from fear of having his property confiscated by the chief, and came to Nandkathī on the Drug-Dhamdā road about a century ago. Here his son, Pīla Sao, having quarrelled with the Marāthā kamaishdār of Dhamdā went to Nāgpur, where he obtained a grant from the Rājā of the Lawan and Sihāwa parganas of Raipur on condition of bringing them under cultivation. He gave Lawan and Sihāwa to his brothers Jodhrai and Chongu Sao, who were known as tāhutdārs of these tracts. The Sihāwa estaṭe was subsequently relinquished, while that of Lawan, comprising 150 villages, remained in the family. But the estate was subsequently broken up among its different branches, and the present representatives are heavily involved. Gopāl Singh, the only son of Pīla Sao, now only retains four villages. He was granted a certificate for loyalty in 1877. The Dānis of Dhamdā are another Baniā family connected with Gopāl Singh of Jāmul. Their ancestors worked as Dāni or customs officer under the Marāthā, and the present representative, Rāmchandra Dāni, has an estate of nine villages and also lends money. Hīra and Gaind Singh Baniās, mālguzārs of Drug, belong to a family which held the posts of kamaishdār and sūbahdār under Marāthā rule. Hīra Singh died recently and his heirs are in possession of six villages, while Gaind Singh also has six villages. One of Gaind Singh's sons, Ghanshām Singh, is a graduate in science and law. Ladurām Baniā of Arjundā and Rāj-Nāndgaon has a considerable estate acquired in satisfaction of debts from the old Gond mālguzārs.

Rājputs, Marāthās and others.

53. Among the Rājputs the family of Sispāl Singh of Rahatādah was formerly of some note, but it has been unfortunate and Sispāl Singh has only one village and a share in another. Arjun Singh of Surdung is another Rājput who owns seven villages and lends money. Mst. Lalit Kunwar of Dādhi is the representative of a Gond family who once owned the large estate of Nawāgarh; her ancestors also held a leading position among the Gond chiefs and zamīndārs of Chhattīsgarh, whose installation and marriage ceremonies were conducted under their guidance. The village of Dādhi is now held with a remission of half the revenue. The Warārbāndh estate of eight villages belongs to a family who were formerly zamīndārs of Dongargarh. The zamīndār rebelled against the Rājā of Nāgpur and lost his estate, but received a grant of these villages free of revenue. Warārbāndh lies in Nāndgaon territory, 5 miles from the Drug border. The estate is indebted and is under the management of the Court of Wards. The present representatives of the family, Padam Singh and Kalandar Singh, are young men under thirty years of age, and have been educated at the Rājkumār College. They live at Warārbāndh.

Two families of Marāthās own property in the Sanjāri tahsīl, but live at Dhamtarī. Dājibā Bhonsla of Armori is connected with the Bhonslas of Nāgpur, and his ancestors came from Rajegaon in the Deccan. His grandfather's sister married Bimbāji Bhonsla of Ratanpur, and received Armori as a grant from the Rājā of Nāgpur. Nathujī is another Marāthā with an estate of eleven villages in the Sanjāri tahsīl, which was granted to his family by the Rājā of Nāgpur. The proprietor of Māro is a Gosain, Rāmsahaigir. His predecessors held more than 100 villages, one of whom, the great Guru

Amrit, was known as tāhutdār of Māro. Rāmsahaigir now has five villages and is much respected in the neighbourhood. The Beldār family of Bathenā, who are masons by caste, hold a grant of two villages free of revenue, which were given to them for assistance rendered in the arrest of the insurgent zamīndār of Sonākhān.

CHAPTER IV.

AGRICULTURE.

For a description of the soils and the method of soil classification adopted in Chhattīsgarh, a reference is invited to the Raipur and Bilaspur Gazetteers.

STATISTICS OF CULTIVATION.

Principal statistics.

54. The area of the District was 4645 square miles as given by professional survey in 1906-07. Of this total, 174 square miles or 3·8 per cent. were Government forest, 310 square miles or 6·7 per cent. were not available for cultivation, 977 square miles or 21 per cent. were culturable waste other than fallow, and 2667 square miles or 68 per cent. were occupied for cultivation including an area of 452 square miles classed as new and old fallow.

Fallow.

55. The area under new fallow stood at 184,992 acres or 11 per cent. of the occupied area in 1906-07, while the area under old fallow was 103,986 acres or 6 per cent. There are very few crops which require resting fallows in this District. Rice can be cropped year after year from the same land. Resting fallows are only given in the following cases. *Chhalpā*, a soil intermediate between *bhāta* and *matāsi*, is given resting fallows once in three years. *Patpar kachhār*, a sandy land on the borders of rivers in which kodon, kutkī and til are sown, is only sown once in two or three years. *Bhāta* also like *chhalpā* requires resting fallows once in three years. The *barejās* (betel-vine gardens) are left fallow for three years after a three years' course. So a *barejā* is divided into four

parts, one of which is sown every year. *Kanhār* land is sometimes left fallow for the purpose of growing *gandhri* grass for thatching, as this grass will not grow on poor land. *Dorsā* land is similarly left fallow for a crop of *dhādhar* grass. This grass grows spontaneously if the land is left waste.

Double-cropping.

56 Double crops are sown in *dorsā* and *kanhār* fields, and very rarely in *matāsi* fields. When two crops are taken off the same land, the first of them is always rice. There are two methods of double-cropping. In one the first crop of rice is the substantial crop and the after-crops are sown in a casual way without any preparation of the field, thus giving a small outturn. This method is called locally *uterā*. Urad, mūng, masūr, gram, linseed, *lākhori* and *batrā* are all sown *uterā* in the month of September after Dasahra and before Diwāli. The seed is scattered in the standing rice, between 15 and 30 days before the rice crop is cut. The second crop is cut in the month of February. The only crop for which the rice-fields are ploughed up is gram. *Lākhori* can be sown when there are 3 inches of water in the field, urad and mūng when there are one or two inches, while for linseed and gram there should be very little water. In all cases the water is let out of the field three or four days after the crop is sown, the grain being scattered and left to germinate. This method is followed over the greater part of the District. In the other method of double-cropping the second crop, generally linseed or gram, is the important one; rice of a light variety is sown broadcast, and is reaped early so as to allow the field to be prepared for the second crop. The double-cropped area depends entirely on the rainfall of the last half of September and beginning of October, and therefore exhibits the most extraordinary fluctuations; if the September rain

is copious, the area sown is large, but in a year of light rainfall it is small. In the south-west three-fourths of the rice land is double-cropped in a favourable year, whereas in the Nandkathī tract in the north-east the area so treated is only one-fourth. The *uterā* crop is said to be half of an ordinary crop in *kanhār* and less than that in *dorsā*. In 1905-06 the area double-cropped was 289,608 acres, and in 1906-07 it rose to 323,673 acres or 23 per cent. of the net cropped area.

Statistics of crops.

57. In 1906-07 the autumn crops covered 1,061,892 acres or 61 per cent. and the spring crops 680,238 acres or 39 per cent. of the gross cropped area. Rice occupied 577,639 acres or 33 per cent. of the gross cropped area, wheat 207,665 acres or 12 per cent., kodon-kutkī 348,363 acres or 20 per cent., linseed 121,946 acres or 7 per cent., *arhar* 69,017 acres or 4 per cent., tiurā 41,930 acres or 2·5 per cent., urad, mūng and *moth* 187,583 or 11 per cent., and peas 59,943 acres or 3·4 per cent.

CROPS.

Rice.

58. Rice (*Oryza sativa*) is the most important crop in the District, covering in 1906-07 an area of 577,639 acres or 33 per cent. of the total cropped area.

Rice varieties.

59. The number of varieties found in this District is legion. But they resolve themselves into three classes, *viz.*, *harunā* or early rice grown on light soil such as *matāsi* which is reaped within 90 days of its sowing; *majholā* (intermediate or medium), also called *ardhanā*, grown on richer soils; and *mai* or mother crop which takes the longest time and is grown on heavy black soil and level lands. The *harunā* crop is as a rule reaped from the 10th to 31st October, *majholā* or *ardhanā* from 1st to 15th November, and

mai from 15th November to 8th December. The varieties most common in the District belong to the last class. They are known as *bhejrī* and *gurmatia*. *Chilkat*, which belongs to the intermediate class, is also extensively grown, but the early varieties do not claim popularity on a large scale. Rice is chiefly sown on *matāsi*, *dorsā* and *kanhār* lands, but is said to give a better return on *matāsi* than on *dorsā* ; *matāsi* however requires plenty of rain, while *kanhār* land will give a crop when the rain is short. Rice is always sown alone, as the conditions of its cultivation do not suit any other crop. But most of the embanked black soil in this District is double-cropped, and the methods of double-cropping have already been explained.

Transplanted rice.

60. *Ropā* or transplanting of rice is perhaps the most elaborate method of cultivation. As its name implies, the seed is sown in one place and the seedlings, after they have grown a little, are transplanted to another. This procedure is however practically unknown in this District, though a few mālguzārs work some of their best fields near the village site on this system at the beginning of July. Transplantation is also occasionally done in fields where the seed has not germinated. The area transplanted in 1906-07 was only 147 acres.

Biāsi system.

61. Broadcast rice naturally requires thinning. The method by which this is effected is peculiar to Chhattīsgarh, and is termed *biāsi*. The operation commences about the middle of July, when the plants are about 3 to 6 inches in height, and consists in passing a *hal* (plough) through the field and uprooting many of the young shoots. The banks of the fields are carefully repaired beforehand, for the operation is quite fatal if the surface of the field is not covered with 2 or 3 inches of water. Heavy rain

must then have fallen before *biāsi* can be attempted. In *matāsi* and *dorsā* fields the clods are then broken with the *kopar* but this is not necessary in *kanhār* fields. After *biāsi* a break of fine weather is hailed with pleasure; but if there is an excess of sunshine and consequent evaporation, more harm than good results.

Other methods of rice cultivation.

62. The method of cultivating rice is simple and the labour entailed is not excessive. Hot-weather ploughing is but little practised, as the soil is so baked by the heat that a plough could only work it after a considerable fall of rain which is unusual at that season. On the approach of the rains the ryots carry such sweepings, ashes, cattle dung, etc., as they have been able to collect and sprinkle them over their fields. The supply is often so short that some fields remain unmanured. When the soil has become sufficiently softened by the first few showers of the monsoon to admit of a plough being worked, the seed is scattered broadcast, and the field is ploughed once with the *bakhar* immediately afterwards where the soil is black and the surface fairly clear of weeds. This completes the sowing operation. This method is locally called *batar* and is the ordinary method of sowing. If the soil be *matāsi*, the field requires one ploughing prior to the sowing of the seed and a cross ploughing to cover it up. This latter method is locally termed *hagdum*. There are two other methods of broadcast sowing, which are locally known as *lei* and *khurrā*. The *lei* method is followed when there is extensive rain which does not permit the sowing of the seed at the proper time. The seed is steeped in cold water and kept for four or five hours; it is then placed in a heap, hot water is poured over it, and it is covered with straw for the night. Next morning it is spread out on the ground and germinates. As soon as

there is a break in the weather, the sprouted seed is sown, and when the plants grow sufficiently high, the *biāsi* operation is effected. The other method called *khurrā* is resorted to when the rains are late. The seed is simply scattered on *kanhār* or *dorsā* land before the rains, when the land is dusty, and then it is ploughed. When rain falls the seed will germinate. It will get no harm from being in the ground for a month so long as the rain when it comes is sufficient.

Weeding or *nindai*.

63. If the rice is thick or if there are weeds in it after *biāsi*, the *kopar* is taken over it. This is simply a flat beam of wood like the *datāri* used for kodon but without the spikes. A few of the rice plants sink, but the remainder spring up again and the crop flourishes all the more for its thinning. After the *biāsi* operation, the crop requires two or three weedings, or as many as the cultivator has leisure to give. Standing about ankle deep in water is not a very healthy occupation, but the operation is of such prime importance that whole families—women as well as men—are engaged in it during the months of August and September.

Harvesting and threshing.

64. The harvesting of light rice *harunā* begins early in October and lasts till the end of the month. Reaping of different kinds goes on more or less continuously until early in December. The crop is cut with sickles, and much of the reaping is done by women. After being cut the crop lies for two or three days on the ground to dry, and is then stacked by men on the threshing floor, locally called *khalā* or *kharyān*, which is usually one of the drier fields near the village site stamped hard. Each cultivator has his own threshing floor, and keeps his produce rigorously separate from that of others. Threshing (*minjai*) is effected by means of bullocks. A

row of bullocks are tethered to a pole in the centre round which they walk in an irregular line, being urged thereto with much vehemence by their owners. In this manner the grain is trodden out and separated from the straw. During the threshing and winnowing operations the grain lies on the threshing floor, and, though watched at night, forms a tempting object for thieves. When these operations are complete, it is stored at home.

Seed and outturn.

65. The standard outturn of rice for this District is 900 pounds to an acre giving an husked produce of 548 lbs. A large number of experiments made by Mr. Blenkinsop during the settlement gave an average of 1046 pounds to an acre. The people speak of a ten-fold outturn, not for a particular field but for large holdings of mixed soils. The rice seed sown in an acre is 85 to 90 lbs., but the density of sowing varies with the soil. *Matāsi*, which is *par excellence* the soil for rice, requires about 10 to 12 lbs. of seed less per acre and in the case of a *gaurasā* field the amount sown can be still further reduced.

Diseases of rice.

66. In a cloudless September when intense heat prevails and the fields are still full of water, the rice stalks wither and grow yellow. Deprived of substance and proper support the ears do not obtain full size and the seed is small and stunted. The crop is then said to suffer from *bankī*. *Bankī* is the *bhedi* pest (*Nymphula depunctalis*) of other Districts, which eats the leaves. The popular belief about *bankī* is that it does not affect the crop if the field is well manured, but that it is most injurious to the crop sown by the method called *lei* described above. Apart from this the green locust (*phāpha*) *Heroglyfus furcifer* and its bigger compeer the red locust (*Tirri phāpha*) *Cirphis unipuncta* are the greatest enemies to young rice; their method of operation being to nip off the young shoots

which then fail to flower and seed. These two insects disappear when heavy rain falls, being carried away by the water which flows from field to field. *Cirphis unipuncta* (*sanwerdebi*) a greenish-white caterpillar cuts the ears of rice.

Kodon-kutkī.

67. Kodon-kutkī (*Paspalum scrobiculatum* and *Panicum psilopodium*), ranks second among the crops in importance and in 1906-07 the area covered by it was 348,363 acres or 20 per cent. of the gross cropped area. It is of an extremely simple type. It is sown both in black soil and gravelly soil. In black soil it is grown in rotation with wheat, and when sown in *bhāta* requires resting fallows. *Arhar*, white til and occasionally *patwā* are sown with kodon. When *arhar* and kodon are grown together, the seeds are sown broadcast. In *matāsi* either kodon or rice is sown, not kutkī. Three varieties of kodon are locally distinguished according to the time they take to ripen: *harunā* or *lusrū* the early variety, *majhola* or *lendra* the middling, and *mai* or *garbuna* the late. *Harunā* is grown on highlands (*bhāta*) and ripens in October. The two other varieties are grown on heavy black soil (*kanhār*) and ripen in December and January respectively. The land is ploughed in June when the rains set in and the seed is sown broadcast. The field is then ploughed over again. As soon as the plants grow 4 or 5 inches high, the field is again ploughed with the *datāri*, a kind of wooden harrow with about 10 wooden spikes each 6 inches long, by which the weeds are all destroyed. The *datāri* is only taken over the land once. Kodon is a crop which the poorest tenants can cultivate as the average amount of seed sown to the acre is 13 lbs., worth about As. 2, and the crop yields 50 fold, the standard outturn being 640 lbs. Kutkī grows on high land. Two varieties are locally known, *bhadai* and *sitahī*. The

former is sown in June, and is reaped in August or the Hindu month Bhādon whence it derives its name *bhadai*. The latter is sown in the month of August and ripens in December or the cold season from which it takes its name, the term *sīt* meaning cold. *Sitahī* is the more productive of the two varieties. The chief injury to which kodon is liable is from a small parasite weed termed *agia* (*Striga lutea*). The word *agia* is derived from *āg* meaning fire. The weed has a small and innocent looking white flower. It is said to be very injurious and to burn up the crop in its proximity. Locusts also appear at long intervals and cause much damage to young kodon.

Urad, mūng and moth.

68. Urad (*Phaseolus radiatus*), mūng (*Phaseolus mungo*), and *moth* (*Phaseolus aconitifolius*), covered in 1906-07 an area of 187,583 acres or 11 per cent. of the gross cropped area. These crops are generally grown as *uterā*. Urad is also sown with cotton in June and July and reaped in November or December.

Til.

69. In 1906-07 an area of 20,260 acres or one per cent. of the gross cropped area was covered by the til (*Sesamum indicum*) crop. Two varieties are recognised, the black and the white. White til is an autumn crop variety sown in Asārh (June—July), and cut at the beginning of November; while the black til is a spring crop sown in Bhādon (August—September) and cut in January. The til crop will grow in all soils. When sown in black soil it is generally mixed with kodon, *arhar* and cotton. But the common practice is to sow it in *bhāta* (highlying land) in rotation with kodon and a fallow. When til is grown alone the soil is generally ploughed three times and the autumn crop then requires no weeding. It is sown very sparsely, from 5 to 7 lbs. of seed being required

for an acre, while in any ordinary year a 20-fold yield may be expected. There is also a third variety of til, the red, also a spring crop til, which is not sown in this District, though Government has tried to introduce it by distributing seed.

San-hemp and other fibres.

70. The area under this head was only 678 acres in 1906-07. *San* was formerly only sown by the Kunbīs, Gonds and Halbās, but other castes have now taken to it. *Patwā* is a fibre akin to *ambāri* (*Hibiscus cannabinus*) and *san* (*Crotalaria juncea*) but is said to be slightly different from both. The stems of *patwā* are as thick as a man's finger and it is sown at intervals. *Patwā* is only sown with kodon, a few seeds being mixed with the kodon seeds. The seed is black and of a triangular shape. The fibre is steeped in water and stripped with a view to the manufacture of rope, and gunny bags. Each stem bears a large number of flowers, whitish, yellow and red. The leaves of *patwā* and the flowers of *ambāri* are eaten as a vegetable, the Gonds eating the former with *bāsi* or cold rice.

Cotton.

71. Cotton (*Gossypium neglectum*) is not very much in favour with the people, its acreage in 1906-07 being only 5485 acres or 0·3 per cent. of the gross cropped area.

Arhar.

72. In the year 1906-07 an area of 69,017 acres or 4 per cent. of the total cropped area was under *arhar*. A very small portion of this is under *arhar* alone, as it is generally mixed with kodon. It is sown in June or July and reaped in December or March according as it is of the *harunā* (early) or *mai* (late) variety. There is another variety *dewal rāhar* which is grown on the edge of the Bālod-Sanjāri jungle mixed with cotton. It has a higher stem than the other two varieties and does not

put out branches so low down. Thus scope is left for the cotton plants below it.

73. The cultivation of sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*) had become trifling by last settlement. It still is unimportant and in 1906-07 occupied not more than 327 acres. Various reasons are assigned for the decrease but the chief cause is that *gur* and sugar can now be imported; sugarcane was only planted so long as its products could not otherwise be obtained. Its cultivation is laborious and distasteful. Only an inferior type is grown in this District called *kusiār*. There are two varieties, one white and the other red. The white kind produces more juice, but it is not so sweet as the red kind. The crop is irrigated from tanks, and black soils are considered most suitable for it. It is sown just below the bank of a tank, the land being changed every year. The crop remains in the ground about nine or ten months, being sown in March or April and reaped about December.

Sugarcane.

74. Tobacco was sown in an area of 1905 acres in 1906-07. Among other minor crops may be mentioned *madwā* (*Eleusine coracana*) a small millet grown in *kachhār* and black soil. It covered an area of 1051 acres in 1906-07. Maize (*Zea Mays*) also occupied 2047 acres and is grown in small *bāris* (orchards) around the *bastī*. It is sown broadcast in June and ripens in September or October.

Tobacco and other minor crops.

75. Mangoes, guavas and custard apples are the principal fruit trees. Custard apple trees are numerous in Bālod. They are not usually planted but spring up spontaneously. There is one orange garden, in the Sanjāri tahsīl. Guava orchards are systematically planted. The tree begins to bear fruit when three years old and continues bearing

Fruit trees.

for about twenty years. Guavas are budded afresh from time to time or cut down and new ones planted. The mango tree bears fruit when six years old and lasts for 60 or 70 years. Mangoes sell at 4 annas to a rupee a hundred and guavas at 2 annas to 4 annas. The area under groves in 1906-07 was 8804 acres.

Spring crops. Wheat.

76. The area under wheat (*Triticum sativum*) in 1906-07 was 207,665 acres or 12 per cent. of the gross cropped area. Wheat is most commonly sown as a spring crop in black soil (*kanhār*). It is usually sown with the *hal* or the regular plough and usually alone, gram in rare cases being mixed with it. This mixture is called *birrā*, the proportion being wheat 85 and gram 15. In very rare cases linseed is mixed with wheat. Wheat like all spring crops is sown in lines by dropping the seed down a bamboo fastened to the plough stilt. The fields in which wheat is grown are locally called *bharrī*. They are manured before the rains set in and are ploughed twice or thrice in July and August, and again in October or November. The seed is sown towards the end of October or in November if the monsoon is late. The seed sown to an acre of wheat is from 100 to 120 lbs. and the standard outturn is 600 lbs.

Varieties.

77. Two varieties of wheat are principally grown, *pissi* and *kathia*, the former being reaped in February and the latter in March. The grain of *kathia* is larger than *pissi*. There are two kinds of *pissi* in this District, *khairi* or reddish, and *safed* or whitish; both these varieties are bearded. The beard of wheat is called *sungh*. *Khairi pissi* is the more popular; it has more flavour and less bran than *safed*. The skin of white *pissi* is very soft, and it does not grind so well as *khairi* in the hand-mills, though in proper mills it produces a very fine

flour. Bengalis and Brāhmans like it, but the Chhattīsgarhis do not think it to be so easily digested. *Kathia* wheat is more appreciated by the people and consequently grown more extensively, while *pissi*, which commands a readier sale and fetches a higher price, is only grown for export. Two other varieties named *bansi* and *safed* are also grown in some places.

Diseases.

78. *Pissi* wheat is considered to be the better rust resistant and *kathia* the better drought resistant. Wheat is damaged by white-ants which abound in seasons when the rains cease early in October and the *akras-ke-pāni*[1] is withheld. The more ploughings a field has the greater is its security against the ravages of white-ants which are induced by cloudy weather. The less the moisture the greater the damage appears to be. Wheat is very liable to injury from rust (smut), locally called *sendri* and *khairi*. *Sendri* is a most fatal scourge and the infected plant will yield no grain at all; the stem becomes a dark brown colour. *Khairi* is said to attach itself to the stem of a plant, and an infected plant if touched leaves a yellow stain on the hand. The disease stunts the growth and the seed affected is of a shrivelled deteriorated type. The crop is sometimes attacked by an insect called *katua*, the wheat stem-borer (*Nongria uniformis*) which eats the young plants. Hailstorms also occasionally cause damage. *Sawarkīra* (*Cirphis unipuncta*) is an ordinary caterpillar which is said to nip off the roots and kill the plant outright. It affects the crop when there is close cloudy weather.

Linseed.

79. Next to wheat, linseed (*Linum usitatissimum*) is the most important spring crop. The area under this crop in 1906-07

[1] The third division of the year, which includes the months of November, December and January.

was 121,946 acres or 7 per cent. of the gross cropped area. It is usually sown under the *uterā* system already alluded to, but a good deal of unembanked land is also annually cropped. Though admittedly a most precarious crop, it is one of the most remunerative. The cost of growing is less than that of wheat as fewer ploughings are given and less seed is required. It is sown from the middle of September to the middle of October, *i.e.*, earlier than wheat. Very rarely it is sown mixed with wheat or gram. Linseed is sometimes attacked by an insect *bhong* in cloudy weather. It is also liable to damage from rust from which it suffered severely in 1897, after heavy and continuous rain in February. Fifteen pounds of seed are sown to an acre and the standard outturn is 200 lbs. The yield of *uterā* linseed is less, the average outturn per acre being only 100 lbs.

Gram.

80. Gram (*Cicer arietinum*) covered an area of 26,573 acres or 1·5 per cent. of the gross cropped area in 1906-07. It is sown in two ways locally called *uterā* and *botā*. In the latter which is the ordinary method the land is prepared in the same way as for wheat, and the seed is sown at the same time as wheat, but gram ripens a little the earlier of the two. Gram is sometimes sown with linseed or wheat, but a favourite mixture is gram and castor, ten *kāthas* of gram being mixed with one *kātha* of castor seed. When this mixture is grown the seed is usually sown broadcast. After sowing the land is ploughed with the *hal* or regular plough and the seed is thus pressed below the surface. The crop is liable to damage from an insect called *bhong*, the gram-pod borer (*Chlorodea obsoleta*), when the cloudy weather sets in. Seventy pounds of seed are sown to an acre and the

Pulses: Masūr, tiurā and *batrā*.

81. These pulses are all sown broadcast in the *uterā* way as well as in the usual way after ploughing. The area occupied by masūr (*Ervum lens*) in 1906-1907 was 17,681 acres or 1 per cent. and that covered by tiurā (*Lathyrus sativus*) and *batrā* (*Pisum arvense*) was 41,930 acres or 2·4 per cent., and 59,943 acres or 3·4 per cent. respectively. All these three crops are sown and reaped at the same time as gram. About 50 pounds of masūr seed are sown to an acre and the outturn is about 270 lbs. Cloudy weather always produces a plague of caterpillars, and in 1901 these crops were thus completely destroyed.

Garden crops.

82. In 1906-07 the area under autumn crops of this description was 2645 acres, and under spring crops 4542 acres. Garden crops are generally sown in *bāris* which are irrigated from shallow wells by means of the lever lift, and a leather bucket. The Marārs are the caste who practise market gardening to the best advantage. Sugarcane is generally irrigated from tanks, but when these are not available water is raised from wells or nullahs by means of the *tenrā* which is an arduous method. Cultivation of yams and vegetables is carried on in the sandy beds of rivers, and in *pāl-kachhār* or silt deposits very rich crops of wheat, barley, oats and garden produce can be had. At points along the Khārun river and some other streams that hold water all the year round, the formation is peculiar; although the banks are low the land instead of rising shelves away for some distance and thus affords facilities for growing the crops named above.

Total value of crops.

83. The following statement is a rough estimate of the total value of the crops of the District, taking the standard ... in 1906-07, according to the

prices ruling in that year. The values are not accurate because the wholesale rates are only available for the important staples, and for the others the retail rates must be taken. In order to make some approximation to accuracy, however, the retail rates have been reduced by 10 per cent. The total value of crops calculated by the above method comes to nearly 3 crores of rupees, the rice crop alone being worth 1½ crores.

Details of Crops.	Area, 1906-07.	Standard outturn per acre.	Gross produce.	Value rate per rupee, 1906-07.	Gross value.	Value of crop on an acre.
	Thousands of acres.	lbs.	Thousands of lbs.	lbs.	Thousands of rupees.	Rs.
Rice ..	578	548*	316,546	22	1,43,88	25
Wheat ..	208	600	124,599	30	41,53	20
Kodon-kutkī ..	348	275*	95,800	44	21,77	6
Linseed ..	122	250	30,486	20	15,24	12
Gram ..	27	450	11,958	28	4,27	16
Til ..	20	150	3,039	14	2,17	11
Arhar ..	69	380	26,226	18	14,57	21
Tiurā ..	42	480	20,126	22	9,15	22
Masūr ..	18	378	6,683	22	3,04	17
Urad, mūng and moth ..	188	231	43,332	22	19,70	10
Other crops ..	64	300	19,059	50	38	6
Total ..	1742	..	717,636	..	2,89,03	..

* Cleaned produce.

84. 'Given water and manure, rice will sprout on a stone.' The manure supply is at present very inadequate, being practically limited to ashes and other rubbish and to the droppings of cattle during the rainy months. Consequently fields are not manured every year. The importance of manure is very great; but much of the most valuable manure, cowdung, is wasted, as for about six months it is made into cakes for purposes of fuel, and for the other six months it is kept in open pits a short distance outside the village or in the garden *bāri* behind the house, whereby it loses some of its fertilizing elements. This collection, to which are added ashes, sweepings, and leavings of cattle fodder or straw, is all that is usually available for the fields. Sometimes another source of supply is found in tanks which have not been cleared out for 3 or 4 years. The *laddi* or silt is dug up and placed in the rice fields. This manure supply is, however, by no means fully utilized. All that is at present done is to give a dressing to each rice field every second or third year. The only crops which are manured are rice, sugarcane and garden crops, and few tenants have sufficient manure for all their rice land. They apply it then in order of priority to whichever they deem their most productive fields. Unembanked land is never manured and has to trust for the recuperation of its energies purely to rotation of crops. Green soiling with hemp is unknown. The weed *kutwā* (*Xanthinum strumarium*) which abounds in the black soil rice fields is declared by the people so to enrich the soil as to enable them to dispense with manure.

Manure.

IRRIGATION.

85. The following note on irrigation has been supplied by Mr. P. J. C. Adams:—Irrigation is practised by the Chhattis-

Tank Irrigation.

garhī only to a very small extent; the existing village tanks are intended almost without exception for storing water for domestic purposes during the hot weather, though in a year of heavy but unseasonable rainfall some of these may be utilized for irrigating the crops. As a rule these tanks are constructed too deep in the ground to be of much service for irrigation. The number of village tanks used for irrigation in the District is 2094 and the area irrigated in 1908 was about 49,386 acres or 24 acres per tank. These tanks are entirely useless in short rainfall, as they have usually very small catchment areas. Irrigation is effected by cutting a gap in the bunds. In some few villages wells are utilized for irrigating garden crops; this is done by means of the 'paicotta,' or weighted balance beam, consisting of a long lever pivoted on a vertical post; the bucket is attached by a rope to the end of the long upper arm of the lever, and the short lower arm is loaded at its extremity sufficiently to counterbalance the weight of the full bucket and the leverage of the long upper arm. The operator pulls the rope down hand over hand until the bucket is in the water, and on the rope being released the counter-weight draws the full bucket up to the surface. This system is of great antiquity and is practised throughout India, Egypt and the East generally. The number of irrigation wells in operation is 3725 and the average area irrigated annually by these is 1417 acres, or 0·4 acres per well.

Works constructed.

86. In the famine of 1902-03, one large tank was opened as a relief work, and two more have since been completed. The number of protective tanks now in operation in Drug is 3, with an average waterspread at full tank of 1·46 square miles, commanding a gross area of 60,865 acres, and capable of irrigating a gross area of 12,432

acres. Four minor tanks have also been constructed, and a fifth is under construction capable altogether of irrigating a gross area of 3224 acres out of 10,588 acres commanded. The total area capable of being irrigated from Government tanks is 15,656 acres or about 0·30 per cent. of the cultivated area of the District. These tanks are formed by throwing a dam across a valley, and impounding the surplus water of the monsoon, the water thus impounded being drawn off as required by means of a masonry sluice outlet. The catchment area varies in the case of major tanks from 3·27 to 16, and in the case of minor tanks from 0·23 to 5·50 square miles.

Works proposed.

87. There are two large works proposed for the irrigation of the Drug District—

(*i*) Tandulā Reservoir and canal,
(*ii*) Jajora tank.

The Tandulā Reservoir will be situated about one mile south of Bālod, about 40 miles south of Drug, binding the Tandulā and Sukha rivers about one mile above their junction. It is by far the largest reservoir scheme in the Provinces and will contain 9353 mcft. of water. The catchment area of this reservoir is about 320 square miles; its waterspread at full tank will be 16 square miles, and the greatest height of the bund and depth of water will be 82 feet and 69 feet respectively. The bund will be of earth three miles in length from end to end. The canal will discharge 2710 cusecs, with a bedwidth of 105 feet and depth of 8 feet. The total length of the main and branch canals will be 108 miles and there will be some 500 miles of distributaries and minors. The scheme will command the whole of the doab between the Tandulā and the Khārun, and is calculated to irrigate 138,500 acres *kharīf* and an equal area of *rabi* in this tract, as well as to supply water for *kharīf* 57,180 acres and *rabi* 120,000 acres for the Dhamtarī

branch canal to the Mahānadi scheme. The scheme was first mooted in April 1905 and the estimate was for Rs. 24,53,474, the area to be irrigated being only 46,048 acres. Since this the scheme has been greatly improved and increased in scope, and an estimate for Rs. 1,01,14,545 was submitted in 1908 for sanction to the Government of India, who have forwarded it with a strong recommendation to the Secretary of State for India. This reservoir will be one of the largest in India, if not in the world.

The Jajora tank will be situated about five miles south of Lohāra (Dondī), with a catchment area of 48 square miles. It has been roughly estimated to cost Rs. 14,00,000, and to irrigate about 40,000 acres. It will command the doab between the Tandulā river on the east and the Kharkharā river on the west. In addition to these two large schemes 3 minor tanks have been surveyed as famine relief works, and estimated in detail. The cost of these aggregates Rs. 1,29,863, and the areas they will irrigate will be 3793 acres. It is proposed during 1909 to survey two more tanks in the Bemetarā tahsīl, either for construction on their own merits or as a famine relief work, as may be deemed advisable on the completion of the estimates. These works will each cost about Rs. 50,000 and be capable of irrigating from 1000 to 1200 acres. In addition, estimates for improving the bunds of existing tanks have been submitted for construction as famine relief works.

Prospects of irrigation.

88. The future prospects of irrigation in the District are decidedly promising, the area actually irrigated being shown in the following table :—

	1906-07.	1907-08.	1908-09.
	acres.	acres.	acres.
Kharīf ..	1,153	11,466	11,985
Rabi ..	138	579	1,097

The figures for 1908-09 are particularly satisfactory when it is remembered that the unirrigated crops in the District were about 14 annas, the rains having been exceptionally good. The rains of 1907-08 were unseasonable and ceased early in September, and irrigation was therefore a necessity. The decrease in the *rabi* figures for 1908-09 is due to the excellent harvest of the *kharīf* crops, and to the consequent disinclination of the Chhattīsgarhī to trouble himself about *rabi*. As regards the future of *rabi* irrigation it must be remembered that this has been hitherto a novelty to the cultivators of Chhattīsgarh; the Agricultural Department has supplied Assistants to demonstrate its advantages in village fields, and some speculative mālguzārs have followed the lead thus given. It is more than probable that the area of *rabi* under irrigation will rapidly increase.

CATTLE.

Cattle breeds.

89. The cattle of the District are of the mixed Chhattīsgarhī breed and are usually red in colour, though other colours are found. They are small and underfed, not to say starved, and not more than 3 feet to the shoulder. The breed apparently was not bad about 40 years ago, but it seems to have deteriorated since. No special care is exercised in breeding. But in some villages for this purpose two of the best looking bulls are set aside by the mālguzār or well-to-do tenants. These animals are called *gular* in the case of bulls and *bijār* in the case of buffaloes. They are permitted to roam about at will and trespass amongst the crops. A few well-to-do mālguzārs keep Berāri cattle and take great care of them. They are consigned to the special charge of a separate cowherd and rarely go out to graze, but are stall-fed at home. A

certain amount of cattle breeding and importing of young animals is carried on at Arjundā and other villages in the neighbourhood of Rānitarai and Utai for sale at the weekly markets of Arjundā, Rānitarai and Utai. The cattle are castrated when three years old by securing the testicles in a cleft stick and rubbing them together till they are quite soft. The operation lasts about ten minutes and causes great pain. From that time they are trained to cultivation and continue working for seven or eight years. Nose strings are never employed because the animals are of a small and poor breed and can easily be controlled without them. Till the famine of 1899-1900 bullocks were sold at Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 a pair. The price has now risen to Rs. 40 a pair. Many animals from Chhattīsgarh are taken annually to Amgaon market in Bhandāra District where they are sold for slaughter, but the Bhandāra people will not buy Chhattīsgarhī cattle for cultivation. Stall-feeding is but little practised and the Chhattīsgarhīs prefer keeping a number of half-starved cattle and letting them forage for themselves, to reducing the number and paying more attention to their food and nurture.

Grazing.

90. The cattle are turned out in the early mornings to graze under the charge of the village cowherd locally called *bardia*. Most villages have a pasture ground but in not a few cases the soil is barren *bhāta* on the margin of cultivation, on which hardly a blade of grass is to be found after the close of October. The existence of these *bhāta* plains is very often stated to be responsible for the miserable condition of the cattle, as but for the fodder which they afford during the rains, the Chhattīsgarhī would be driven to stall-feed his cattle. In the hot weather the cattle fare still worse as rice straw, on which they are generally fed, affords but little sustenance. The plough-

ing season is upon them at the time of their direst distress and they then gorge themselves with the unhealthy grass which sprouts on the advent of the rains. More attention is naturally paid to the cattle at the ploughing and sowing time, when, for a month, they are mostly stall-fed on rice straw, etc., a quantity of grain such as peas or tiurā not exceeding a pound per head being also added. The cattle usually get salt once a year at Hareli Amāwas (July) and at Diwāli they get rice and pulse.

Bulls, bullocks and cows.

91. In 1906-07 there were 201,081 bulls and bullocks in the District giving a pair to every 14 acres of land in cultivation. Besides there were 175,581 cows which are kept for breeding. A cow costs from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20 and ordinarily gives half a pound or one pound of milk a day. A cow in calf gives milk for eight to nine months and is then dry for another similar period. In the jungle portions of the District the Gonds often yoke cows to the plough. This custom is viewed with disfavour by orthodox Hindus, but it is by no means an uncommon practice. A poor tenant will labour for four days in exchange for the use of a plough and pair of bullocks for one day.

Buffaloes.

92. There is a large stock of buffaloes in the District, and they are valued more than bullocks for purposes of cultivation. They are used for dragging the plough at the time of *biāsi* and in ploughing the black soil fields in the rains, for which task the local cattle are not strong enough. Much of the extremely rough cultivation which is witnessed in the District is due to the employment of oxen instead of buffaloes. Apart from purely agricultural considerations the possession of buffaloes is a source of considerable income and is also an index to the pros-

perity of the ryot, since they are employed to draw carts of grain and merchandise sent to the railway stations and big markets, and this carrying trade is by no means unremunerative. Most of them are imported from the north, and the only local breeding is done by the Rāwats (milkmen). The imported buffaloes are said not to live long as the climate does not suit them. The price of a pair of buffaloes varies between Rs. 60 and Rs. 100 according to size. The number of male buffaloes in 1906-07 was 62,532 and of cow-buffaloes 17,299. The price of a cow-buffalo is about Rs. 50. If stall-fed she gives from 4 to 5 lbs. of milk a day. Very few animals are however fed in this way, and consequently they generally give but little milk. A cow-buffalo in calf gives milk for a year and is then dry for another year. Barren cow-buffaloes are sometimes yoked to ploughs and carts. Comparatively little *ghī* is produced and none is exported. In fact *ghī* is imported for local use.

Sheep and goats.

93. Sheep and goats are kept in the District by the Gadaria or shepherd caste of Hindus and by Muhammadans. The wool is used for making country blankets which are popular with the cultivators. Pankās and Satnāmi Chamārs look upon sheep and goats as impure and do not touch them. Their manure is often used for manuring rice fields. Sheep numbered 34,237 in 1906-07. The sheep are generally black in colour and are sheared once or twice a year. The flesh of sheep is also eaten. Their price is from Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 a *korī* of twenty-one sheep. Singly they cost R. 1-4 to R. 1-8 each. Goats are more expensive, as they are used in religious ceremonies, and a full-grown animal costs about Rs. 2. They numbered 70,900 in 1906-07. Goats are kept mainly for food and their milk is only occasionally drunk.

Ponies and small stock.

94. No horse breeding is carried on in the District. Consequently there are scarcely any good animals to be found, except the ponies of well-to-do mālguzārs. People generally travel on foot or in bullock-carts, wherever this method of locomotion is practicable. Ponies are sometimes used as pack animals by itinerant vendors for the carriage of wares such as groceries, cloth, etc. The cost of such ponies varies from Rs. 7 to Rs. 10. The number of horses and ponies in 1906-07 was 5486 or about three to each inhabited village. Donkeys are generally kept by Beldārs and a sort of peripatetic tribe called Chiraimār for the carriage of their luggage, etc., but they are very few. In 1906-07 the District contained only 48 donkeys. Their milk is not drunk, but is sometimes given as medicine to children. The donkey is impure and kept only by the lowest castes.

Diseases.

95. The local names of the common cattle diseases are *māta* for rinderpest, *chapkā* and *khurhā* for foot-and-mouth diseases, *chhai* for anthrax, *chhatbhoj* for black quarter, a kind of anthracoid disease, and *saunāhi* for *hemorrhagic septicæmia*. *Saunāhi* is common in the District and recurs almost every year. It generally attacks the small calves of buffaloes of two or three years and breaks out in the damp weather in about the Hindu month of Shrāwan (August) from which it derives its name. Ninety per cent. of the affected animals are said to die from this disease. Rinderpest commonly breaks out once in two or three years, and buffaloes suffer more from it than cattle, especially cow-buffaloes. The animals generally die within a week, and if they live to eight or ten days will probably survive. The owners feed them sometimes on kodon gruel and give them potash nitre dissolved in water and worship Devi. The segregation of affected

cattle on the outbreak of the disease is quite a foreign idea among the people who regard the visitation as a decree of fate. Foot-and-mouth disease is very troublesome in the rains when worms appear in the sores, and also in winter, but it is not usually fatal. The animal is tied up in the miry portion of the tank so that its feet stand in the mud, as the disease more commonly attacks the feet. Anthrax appears in different forms which are considered locally as different diseases, such as *bhaonra*, when the head gets giddy and the animal runs in circles, *phalāhi*, when the body is swollen, and *chhai*—gloss anthrax—when the blood vessels of the tongue become much congested. The commencement of the rains is the most unhealthy time for the cattle, as after being half starved through the hot weather, they gorge themselves on the rank young grass, and cultivating cattle which are then put to the plough are more liable to succumb to disease than others. A veterinary dispensary has been maintained by the District Council at Drug since 1st January 1906, and to it are attached two hospital assistants one of whom is peripatetic.

Cattle fairs and markets.

96. There are no regular cattle fairs in the District, but cattle are brought for sale at the Gandai Nerbudda kund fair which after an interval of thirty years was revived in 1907. In 1908, 894 cattle were brought for sale, of which 123 were sold of the value of Rs. 2800. Cattle sales are registered and fees realised at the rate of one anna per head. An agricultural show was held during the fair, and prizes amounting to Rs. 100 were distributed for the best specimens of agricultural produce and live stock. The important markets of the Drug tahsīl are Rānitarai, Arjundā and Utai. These are large cattle markets where cattle are brought for sale from the Kānker and Bastar States and other Districts

such as Raipur, Bilāspur and Bālāghāt, and sold to local purchasers as well as to people from the Raipur District. Cattle are also sold at Drug, the headquarters of the District, and at Barhāpur, Nawātalao, Nagpurā and Pinkāpār. In the Bemetarā tahsīl markets are held at Markā, Badnerā, Khandsarā, Berlā, Charbhāta and Gandai where cattle are sold. Gandai is the only market in the District at which sales are registered. Here in 1906-07, 9013 head of cattle were sold and Rs. 563 were realised as registration fees at the rate of one anna per animal. Cattle in large numbers come to this market from July to October from Lālbarrā and Wāraseonī in Bālāghāt, from Garhākotā in Saugor and from Mandlā. Karhībhadar and Kherthā are well-known cattle markets in the Sanjāri tahsīl, to which cattle are brought for sale from the Bastar State, and sold to the local purchasers and also to the people from Rāj-Nāndgaon and the Lawan and Dhamtarī parganas of the Raipur District. At Gurur also in the Sanjāri tahsīl a few cattle are sold at the weekly market.

CHAPTER V.

LOANS, PRICES, WAGES, MANUFACTURES, TRADE AND COMMUNICATIONS.

LOANS.

Loans and money-lenders.

97. As the District has only just been constituted, there are no transactions to record under the Government Loans' Acts. The amounts outstanding under both Acts were insignificant in 1906. The rate of interest on private loans in cash varies from 6 to 24 per cent. according to the standing of the borrower. It is said that it has risen and that whereas substantial tenants could formerly get money at 12 per cent., they can no longer do so except on mortgage or pledge of valuables; and that some proprietors even have to pay 24 per cent., with *battā* or the deduction of percentage which varies according to the standing of the borrower. Chamārs, owing to their bad reputation, have to pay very high rates of interest. Simple mortgage is the most common form of security for landed property, and the interest on mortgages is usually 9 per cent. On loans of rice for seed the rate of interest is 25 per cent., and for the poorer cultivators 35 or even 50 per cent. Advances for seed are given in May or June and repaid in January or February. The same rates rule for wheat and other spring crop grains. A large number of cultivators have now adopted the practice of keeping their own grain for seed. The largest moneylender in the District is Ludurām Seth, Mahesri Baniā, of Rāj-Nāndgaon and Arjundā in Drug. He has a property of about 40 villages in Sanjāri tahsīl. The proprietor of Pātan, Raghunāth Misra, Chhattīs-

garhī Brāhman, has also large dealings and owns about 20 villages. The other leading bankers are Rām Prasād Agarwāl Baniā of Deokar, Ghāsi Sao Kasondhā Baniā of Deokar, Umrao Singh Kurmī, the proprietor of Bemetarā, and Hari Prasād, Chhattīsgarhī Brāhman of Sambalpur in Sanjāri tahsīl.

Castes of proprietors.

98. The principal castes of proprietors in the mālguzāri area of the District are the Brāhmans who own 353 villages, the Kurmīs 303, the Telis 175, the Rājputs 159, the Baniās 159, Chamārs 69, Marāthās 67, Lodhis 66, Gonds 61, Bairāgis 41, Muhammadans 40, Koshtās 36, Rāwats 35, and Halbās 25. Mr. Blenkinsop writes of the proprietors of Drug tahsīl as follows:[1] 'In the 'Dhamdā group there is a good Lodhi community. In 'Nandkathī Baniās and Rājputs have been materially 'assisted by the famines in getting rid of Chamār tenants. 'The Chamār mālguzārs are all poor. Kurmīs from the 'adjoining Simgā tahsīl are gaining ground. In Drug 'there is a very good cluster of Kurmīs, and the Baniās 'and Brāhmans are not oppressive. In Pātan the Brāh'mans and some of the Kurmīs are very wealthy. In 'Ranchirai most of the villages are held by Telis and 'Kurmīs, but the Rājputs are bad managers or oppres'sive, and the Mārwāri villages are ruined. In Arjundā 'Kurmīs and Telis are very numerous especially in the 'west. In the east the Rājputs are spendthrifts and 'cannot sustain their villages in bad years. In Pinkāpār 'and Bhanderā the Gonds and Halbās are found. They 'cannot support unfavourable seasons. Though many 'of the mālguzārs are very wealthy, there are but few 'who hold many villages. In the north Johārsingh 'Lodhi has eight villages, and Rāmchand Dāu Baniā

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1 Settlement Report, para. 56.

'the same number. (Dāu was the term by which the 'patels were generally known. The patel was set over 'a number of villages, to each of which there was a '*gaontia*). Other members of the Agarwāl Baniā family, 'though not having many villages in this tahsīl, have 'property in other parts of the District. They are quarrel- 'some and litigious and some are heavily involved. In 'the south-east Sundarlāl Rājput has nine villages and 'others in the Dhamtarī tahsīl. In the centre Santokh 'Kurmī holding four villages and a share in another is 'very influential, and also Raghunāth Misra with four 'whole villages and shares in two others. Kariāsao 'Koshtā, with three whole villages and shares in four 'others in the south-west, holds many villages in other 'tahsīls.'

Condition of the proprietors.

99. The proprietors appear generally to be in good condition. Some of them remember the times of the Nāgpur kingdom, when Chhattīsgarh suffered much oppression. Sanjāri is the poorest tahsīl and Bemetarā the richest, while Deokar and Pātan are the best parts of Drug. The Kurmī proprietors appear to be the most prosperous, though they tend to extravagance in marriage and other ceremonies. They are said to be fond of increasing their home farms, but there is little litigation in a Kurmī village. Their expenditure is even greater at funerals than at weddings, when the dead man is the head of the family, and it is necessary to do him honour. A proprietor, whose house is worth less than Rs. 500, will spend Rs. 1000 or Rs. 1500 on one funeral. Teli proprietors are most numerous in Drug tahsīl. They are economical in expenditure and are the best cultivators after the Kurmīs. The Brāhmans are said to allow the tenants to fall into arrears with their rent in order to obtain interest on it, or if they cannot pay, to

eject them and obtain a premium for re-letting the land. The Chamār proprietors are all poor. Many mālguzārs are anxious to make tanks, and if they have money to spare, will spend it in this way; or in Bemetarā tahsīl they will sometimes make embanked fields for wheat. Most proprietors keep a cart for their journeys by road, and in Bemetarā many have ponies; but fewer are kept now than formerly, one reason assigned being the greater expense of grain. Their houses are very unpretentious and the walls are usually of mud. The eating and drinking vessels are of bell-metal, and may be worth two or three hundred rupees. It is said that some proprietors will give a meal free to any traveller who asks for it; and when a Brāhman visits them they give him a present of one or two annas up to a rupee for his expenses on the return journey. Thirty years ago it is said to have been the custom to offer any outsider who came to the village a cup of milk; but this usage has died out. Many proprietors are now leaving their villages and taking up their residence in the large centres, employing agents to collect their rents. For this work dismissed patwāris are very much in demand. Their chief luxury is litigation, and Mr. Blenkinsop gives an instance of one mālguzār, who in addition to many cases at the tahsīli and District Court carried no less than seven cases up to the Judicial Commissioner's Court during a period of ten years. A few of them get copies of printed rulings, and are very awkward to encounter on any legal point that concerns them. The two principal causes of the transfers of villages are debts incurred for the expenses of litigation, and the dividing up of villages among a number of co-sharers. This is carried on to a far greater extent than appears in the village papers, and there are sometimes thirty or forty sharers in one village. In Bharni Nawegaon there are said to be over 120 members

of the proprietary body, and there are many other such cases. Naturally the property cannot maintain them, and they become deeply involved.[1]

Tenants.

100. As regards the tenants Mr Blenkinsop writes as follows:[2] 'Except for the development of the Chamār there is little 'to notice; Telis and Kurmīs form the backbone of a 'tenantry that is on the whole good, though till recently 'somewhat spoilt by prosperity and tending towards 'indolence, careless cultivation and want of forethought. 'The Chamārs have during recent years been at their 'worst; they seem to be subject to no moral scruples 'or restraint. Very few of them have any real respect 'for their *guru*, and to lie, steal, destroy cattle, and 'commit arson are everyday affairs; while the bolder 'spirits indulge in burglaries, dacoities, and violent 'assaults. I do not say that they are all as bad as this, 'and I have come across many Chamārs who were respectable and pleasant to meet, but I do say that in 'any village where Chamārs predominate, it is an even 'chance that the village is in a bad condition, the mālguzār an absentee or without the least influence, and 'if the cattle of the village are spared, there will be 'losses of cattle in the surrounding villages. Other 'castes are so afraid of attracting to themselves the 'special enmity of the Chamārs, who are very clanny, 'that they will often not make any complaint. The 'aborigines are not very numerous in the tracts that 'I have inspected; there are a certain number of Halbās 'and Gonds, but they have become more intelligent by 'association with Hindus. None of them are wealthy, 'but many of them are fairly well off, and some of the

1 The last part of this paragraph is taken from the Settlement Annexure of Mr. Blenkinsop's Report.

2 Settlement Report, para. 67.

'Halbās make good mālguzārs. The relation of 'mālguzārs with their tenants is generally good with the 'exception of Chamārs. Some are oppressive, but they 'are quite the exception. Kurmī mālguzārs especially 'have kept to the customary rates of interest on cash 'and grain loans, in spite of the trials of the two famines 'and the opportunities afforded thereby. Many of the 'more simple mālguzārs hardly recognise their powers 'as proprietors at all, and do not even settle the land of 'absconded tenants without first asking permission from 'a Government officer. The action taken to evict tenants 'is surprisingly small, even when they deliberately 'withhold their rents though able to pay. This may, 'however, be due to the fact that the defaulters are 'almost invariably Chamārs, and the mālguzārs do not 'take action through fear of insult, loss of cattle and 'arson. Debt is generally small except in the case of 'Agarwāl Baniās, Rājputs and some Brāhmans.' In the Drug tahsīl the tenants are principally Telis, Kurmīs and Chamārs, while in Bemetarā Chamārs are more numerous than any other caste. In Sanjāri there are fewer Chamārs and the Telis predominate, after them coming the Halbās and a certain number of Gonds. The usual holding is that of a plough of four cattle. A cultivator who has only one bullock is called *ekpaon* or one-footed, as he cannot cultivate his own land and must get somebody else as a partner. A man who has two bullocks is called *do-paon*, and he is capable of supporting himself. Properly the term *mandal*, signifying a well-to-do man, should be applied only to a cultivator who has four ploughs of four bullocks or sixteen head of cattle, though in practice it is much more loosely employed. Tenants with less than two ploughs of land or eight cattle cannot usually keep buffaloes; the common proportion with those who have two ploughs is two buffaloes and six bullocks.

PRICES.

101. The rates prevailing at Drug are not available in past years. The following statement shows the prices of rice and wheat at Raipur for a series of years, as given by Mr. Carey in his Settlement Inspection Report :—

Rice and wheat.

	Rice.	Wheat.
	lbs.	lbs.
1861-64 (Before the effect of the American War was felt) ..	95	112
1865-67 (Effect of American War)	27	52
1868-70 (Scarcity of 1868) ..	44	49
1871-73	68	86
1874-76	72	94
1877-79 (Madras famine) ..	48	55
1880-82	69	64
1883-86 (Railway open to Rāj-Nāndgaon)	52	58
1887-89	37	46
1890-92 (Railway open to Asansol)	41	39
1893-95	39	42
1896-1900	25	24
1901-05	28	30

During the famine of 1897 rice sold at 19 lbs. to the rupee and in that of 1900 at 21 lbs. In 1906 *dhān* or unhusked rice sold at 74 lbs. to the rupee; *bagar* or rice husked, but not cleaned, at 28 to 30 lbs.; common rice at 26 lbs.; and the best quality at 16 lbs. In 1907 *bagar* rice was 20 lbs., common rice 16, and the best rice as dear as 10 lbs. to the rupee. Wheat rose to 18 lbs. in 1897 and 20 lbs. in 1900, falling to 36 lbs. in 1904. It is usually a little cheaper than rice, and sold at 32 lbs. to the rupee in 1906 and 22 lbs. in 1907. In this year the

price of gram at Drug was 21 lbs. and of linseed 16 lbs. to the rupee. Salt sold at 28 lbs. to the rupee in 1907 or 2 lbs. dearer than in Raipur.

WAGES.

Agricultural wages at last settlement.

102. The following notice of wages is taken from Mr. Blenkinsop's Settlement Report of the Drug Tahsil (1903).[1] According to the census figures the number of permanent labourers or *sonjias* has been greatly reduced, and this agrees with the statements of mālguzārs and tenants. The *sonjia* gets one-fourth of the produce and a present of a blanket every third year. This shows the easy terms on which cultivation is carried on in this District. The *sonjia* is allowed to speak his mind to his employer and to have his say in cultivation. Thus he prefers the coarser kinds of rice as giving him a larger food-supply; if the employer wants to substitute the better sorts so as to get a better price, he has to propitiate the *sonjia* with a cloth and other presents.

In 1903, Mr. Blenkinsop states, the wages of ordinary labour had fallen in response to the recent bad years by about 25 per cent. Women's wages were generally about 25 per cent. less than men's. Men's wages were from two to three *chauthias* of unhusked rice, or roughly 2 to 3 lbs. of husked rice per day. Women's wages were 1½ to 2 lbs. of husked rice. Wages for reaping were generally a quarter less than for weeding, but previously the reapers had been allowed to gather the fallen grain (*sīla*), whereas they were now deprived of that privilege. Women employed to husk rice formerly received two *kāthas* of coarse paddy or kodon for husk-

[1] Paras. 70, 71, 73.

ing one *khandī* of twenty *kāthas* or at the rate of 10 per cent. They were also allowed to keep the *kankī* or residue of broken grain unfit for sale. But in 1903 husking was done by the tenant's own household, or, if by an outsider, it was done for the *kankī* alone.

Village servants.

103. The kotwār formerly got 10 *kāthas* (65 lbs.) of unhusked rice per plough of land. The Lohār or blacksmith was on the same footing, but in some villages his remuneration was at a higher rate. The Rāwat or herdsman got from 10 to 40 *kāthas* (65 to 260 lbs.) of unhusked rice per four-bullock plough, with one day's milk in three of cows and one day's milk in five of milch buffaloes, together with the droppings of the animals while grazing. The Baigā, who might serve several villages, was paid according to his efficiency and the credulity of the people, usually 12 to 32 lbs. of unhusked rice per plough. The Dhobi was paid in cash according to his services.

Miscellaneous wages.

104. The cash wages of labour in the interior are stated to be even now as small as six to eight pice for a man and five to six pice for a woman for weeding the crops. Similar rates are paid at harvesting, but sometimes a retaining fee of a rupee or 30 lbs. of husked rice is given extra. In Drug town the wages of a man are As. 3 a day and of a woman As. 2. An indoor servant, such as a Rāwat, is given from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 a month for bringing water, cleaning the cooking-pots, and washing his master's cloth after he has bathed. He also gets the leavings of food as a rule, but cannot claim these as a right. The ordinary wages of a native groom are Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 a month, and for this he has to tend his pony and also to provide grass for it. Sometimes proprietors employ a man to watch their private forests. If he has a little cultivation of his own he can be

had for Rs. 3 a month, but otherwise must be given Rs. 4 or Rs. 5. Well-to-do people may keep a nurse to look after their children, who will be paid R. 1-8 to Rs. 2 a month with odd allowances of food and presents of old clothes at festivals. Carpenters and masons in the town are paid from As. 8 to As. 12 a day, and stone-breakers can earn from As. 8 to R. 1. Moneylenders often employ Brāhmans, Rājputs and Muhammadans from Northern India for the collection of their debts. These duns cannot as a rule read or write, but every morning they go round to one or more of the debtors, and if he lives in a village other than their master's, they expect to receive their food from him. If the creditor has no permanent servant he will get some man to go and ask for the debt, and he then expects his food and also a present of an anna or two, which is known as *masāla*. If the debtor will neither pay anything nor accompany the dun back to the creditor, the latter threatens to sit *dhannā* at the door or he returns and reports to the moneylender. The latter will then treat the debtor more harshly and make him pay the amount given to the dun.

MANUFACTURES.

Manufactures: Cloth, silk, etc.

105. The manufactures of the District are quite insignificant. Coarse country cloth is woven in several of the larger villages, the principal centres being Nawāgarh, Drug, Dhamdā, Pātan, Bālod, Deokar, Bemetarā, Arjundā, Arkār and Bhednī. Checked cloths are produced in Nawāgarh. Thread of counts of 10 to 12 is generally used, and thick cloth is sometimes woven with thread of 6 to 8. Indian mill-made cloths are largely worn all over the District, being woven with red borders to suit the local taste. White, black, and

checked blankets are made by Gadarias or shepherds and sold at R. 1-4 to Rs. 3 a piece. A little tasar silk is reported to be produced in the village of Seonī in Bemetarā tahsīl. Ornaments and vessels of brass and bell-metal are made in Drug, Nawāgarh and Dhamdā. The best quality of metal is known as *phulkāns*, and vessels of this are sold by weight at Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 per seer of 2 lbs. The hills of the Dondī-Lohāra, Khujjī and Gandai zamīndāris contain deposits of iron-ore, and iron in small quantities is smelted by indigenous methods and used for the manufacture of agricultural implements. Stone bowls and crucibles are made at Nawāgarh from the deposits of red sandstone. The District has no factories.

Weights and measures.

106. The following scale of grain measures is in general use in the District :—

1 *pawai*	= 4 $\frac{9}{16}$ chittacks.
1 *adhelia*	= 2 *pawais* or 9$\frac{1}{8}$ chittacks.
1 *paili* or *chauthia*	= 2 *adhelias* or 18$\frac{1}{4}$ chittacks.
1 *kātha*	= 4 *pailis* or 4 seers 9 chittacks.
1 *khandī*	= 20 *kāthas* or 91$\frac{1}{4}$ seers.
1 *gāra* or cartload	= 20 *khandīs*.

The above equivalents in weight are for husked rice. A *kātha* of *dhān* or seed-rice weighs 3 seers 4 chittacks. A *khandī* of *dhān* gives 10$\frac{1}{2}$ *kāthas* of husked rice, and the difference in measurement is therefore nearly 50 per cent. But, as shown above, a *khandī* of *dhān* weighs 65 seers or 130 lbs. at 3 seers 4 chittacks per *kātha*. It gives 10$\frac{1}{2}$ *kāthas* of husked rice, weighing nearly 48 seers at 4 seers 9 chittacks per *kātha*. The loss in weight is therefore from 65 to 48 seers or 26 per cent.[1] In Drug town a large *kātha* containing 5 seers of rice has been

[1] The above calculation is taken from Mr. Blenkinsop's Settlement Report on the Drug tahsīl (1903).

introduced with another measure of one seer known as a *kangan*. There is also a small *kātha* containing only 3 seers of grain by which payments are made to farm-servants and field labourers. A *nāgar* or plough of land is as much as two bullocks and two buffaloes can cultivate, and varies from 20 to 25 acres. A quarter of a *nāgar* is known as a *pao*. An acre of land takes 12 *kāthas* (55 seers) of rice as seed-grain. In Chhattīsgarh the *kos* is equivalent to 3 miles, and the ordinary *kos* of two miles is known as a *gao kos*. The excavation of earth for tanks is measured by the *dangani* which is a pit of 5 *hāths* or cubits square by one cubit in depth or about 85 cubic feet. The ordinary rate of payment for tank work is eight *danganis* or 657 cubic feet for a rupee. If the soil is hard or the lead and lift heavy, the demand is varied, by reducing the measurement of the depth from a cubit to a *mūnda hāth*, the forearm with the hand shut, which comes to about a foot. The rate would then be reduced by a third and would come to 150 cubic feet for a rupee. For embanking, where there is no lead or lift, the rate is 40 *danganis* for a rupee, the width being half a *dangani* and the depth not more than one foot so as not to spoil the field too much. The maximum here is therefore 1125 cubic feet for a rupee.[1]

Markets.

107. The District has 114 weekly markets, of which 40 are held in the Drug tahsīl, 55 in Bemetarā, and 19 in Sanjāri. Gandai is the most important bazar of the District and the only one at which cattle are registered. Animals are brought here for sale from Lālbarrā and Wāraseonī in Bālāghāt, from the Mandlā District, and from Garhākotā in Saugor. In 1906-07 a total of 9013 head of cattle changed hands, and Rs. 563 were realised

[1] The above paragraph is taken from Mr. Blenkinsop's Settlement Report of the Drug tahsīl, para. 71.

as registration fees at the rate of one anna per animal. Cattle-markets are held at Rānitarai and Utai in Drug tahsīl, and animals are brought here from Kānker and Bastar and from the remainder of Chhattīsgarh. Cattle are also sold at the markets of Karhībhadar and Kherthī in Sanjāri tahsīl. Considerable quantities of grain and cloth are brought to the markets held on Wednesdays and Saturdays in Drug. Iron implements and wheel-tyres are brought for sale to Bālod market in Sanjāri tahsīl. Many of the cultivators cart their own grain to Rāj-Nāndgaon for sale where it is stated better prices can be had than at Raipur or Drug.

Fairs.

108. The only fair of any consequence is held at Gandai which has been already mentioned as having an important weekly bazar. Gandai is 42 miles north-west of Drug with which it is connected by a gravelled road through Dhamdā. Gandai has a sacred pool known as the Nerbudda-kund, because it is believed to be fed by a subterranean stream from the Nerbudda river. The fair which was in abeyance for thirty years was revived in 1907. In that year the fair lasted for about 20 days in January, the total attendance being about 80,000 persons and the sales of goods being estimated at Rs. 50,000. An agricultural show was held and prizes were given for the best specimens of agricultural produce and live-stock.

TRADE.

Exports.

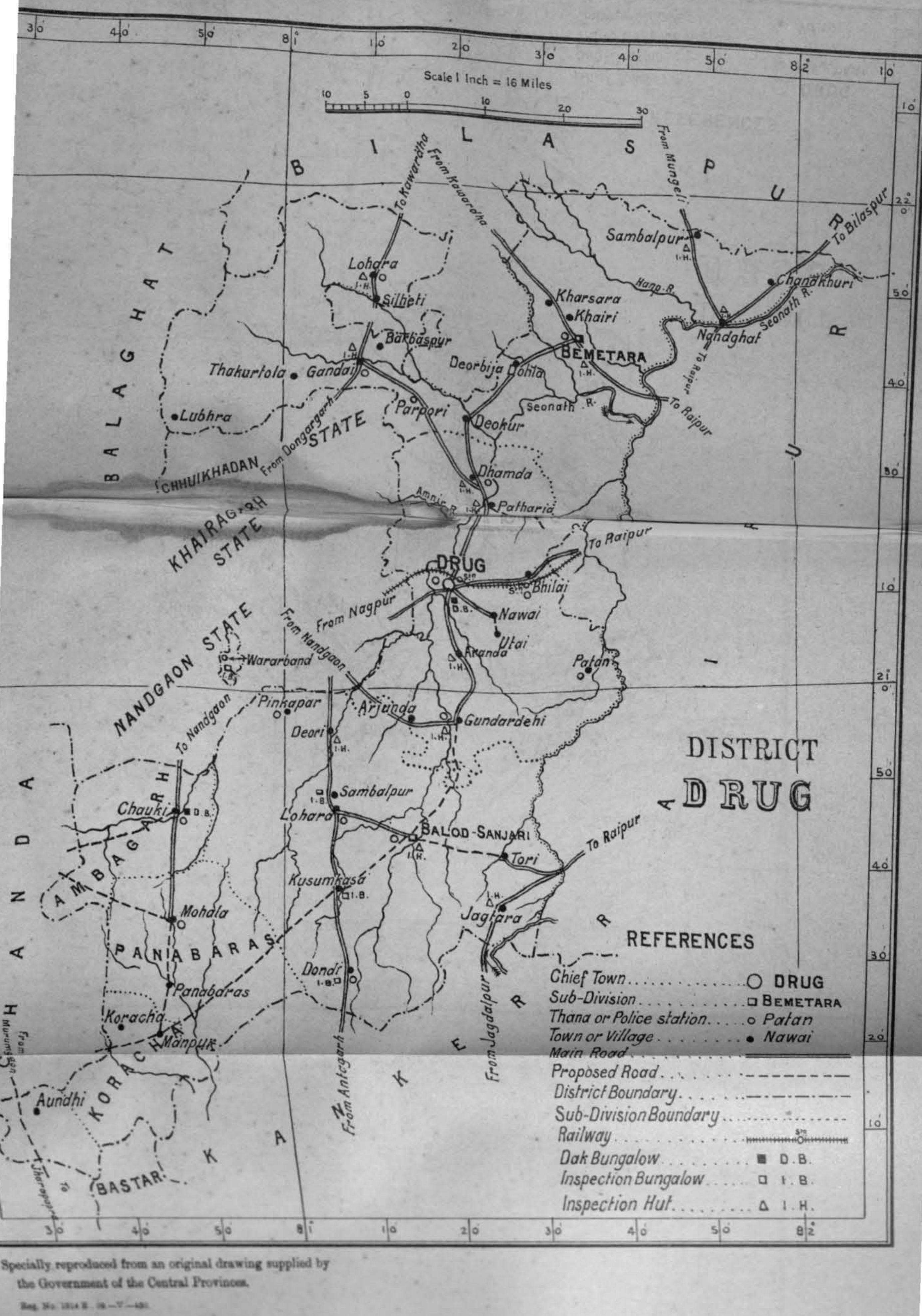
109. The only two railway stations in the District are Drug and Bhilai, and the latter has practically no trade. The statistics of rail-borne traffic have been compiled for Drug station for the years 1902 to 1906, but they in no way represent the trade of the District. The exports of a

large part of the Bemetarā tahsīl are taken to Raipur along the Simgā-Kawardhā road, and of part of the Sanjāri tahsīl to Dhamtarī, while from the centre of the District many cultivators carry grain in their own carts to Rāj-Nāndgaon. The produce of the south-western and north-western zamīndāris is also usually taken to Rāj-Nāndgaon. But for purposes of comparison in future years the imports and exports of Drug and Bhilai stations for three years are shown below :—

EXPORTS.	1902		1905		1906	
	Mds.	Value in Rs.	Mds.	Value in Rs.	Mds.	Value in Rs.
ice ..	36	1,21	46	1,70	109	4,32
heat ..	68	1,90	108	3,16	66	2,27
ther grains and pulses ..	1	2	81	2,03	34	1,14
ll other articles	8	56	16	89	18	94
TOTAL ..	113	3,69	251	7,78	227	8,67

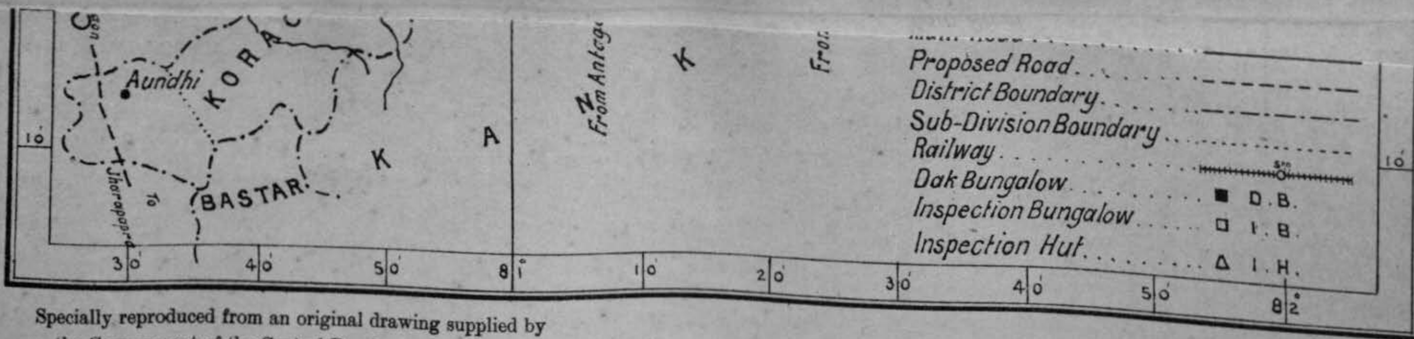
IMPORTS.	1902		1905		1906	
	Mds.	Value in Rs.	Mds.	Value in Rs.	Mds.	Value in Rs.
Cotton manufactures ..	2	90	5	2,20	6	2,96
Metals ..	..	6	5	62	5	87
Salt ..	21	78	27	75	24	64
Sugar ..	5	34	5	46	6	50
All other articles	16	66	142	3,16	67	3,15
TOTAL ..	44	2,74	184	7,19	108	8,12

N.B.—Figures represent thousands.



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Reg. No. 1814 E. 09.—V.—450.

The exports rose from 113,000 maunds valued at Rs. 3·7 lakhs in 1902, to 227,000 maunds valued at Rs. 8·7 lakhs in 1906, a satisfactory indication of the expansion of trade. The imports also increased in value from Rs. 2·7 to more than Rs. 8 lakhs. In 1906 the value of the exports was very little greater than that of imports. Grain and pulse form more than 90 per cent. of the District exports, and the principal staple is wheat. Wheat and linseed are usually sent to Bombay, and rice to Calcutta. Lac is exported to Mirzāpur, and myrabolans are sent to Raipur and Rāj-Nāndgaon for sale.

Imports.

110. Of the imports, cotton manufactures have increased from Rs. 90,000 in 1902 to nearly three lakhs in 1906. Indian thread and cloth comes from the Raj-Nāndgaon, Nāgpur, Amraoti and Hinganghāt mills, and English cloth mostly from Bombay. Indian sugar is now generally consumed, and *gur* or unrefined sugar is obtained from Northern India and from Ratanpur. *Ghī* is imported from the Jubbulpore District through Katnī. Brass vessels are brought from Bhandāra and Mandlā, besides being produced in the District.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Railway and roads north of the railway.

111. The main line of the Bengal-Nāgpur Railway crosses the centre of the District where it is only 17 miles broad, and the stations of Drug and Bhilai are situated within its limits. The Great Eastern Road runs nearly parallel to the railway, passing through Drug with a length of nearly 18 miles in the District. Rāj-Nāndgaon is 12 miles from the western border, and Raipur 8 miles from the eastern. Prior to the construction of the railway this road was the great highway of commerce, and it is still used to a consider-

able extent though it has now only a gravelled surface. The principal road to the north of the railway is that from Drug through Nandkathī, Dhamdā, Deokar and Deorbīja to Bemetarā, meeting the Simgā-Kawardhā road at Bemetarā. The first 5 miles of the road were metalled in the famine of 1900, and the remaining 42 miles to Bemetarā are gravelled. The road is an important one with heavy traffic in fair weather, but it is not practicable for carts beyond Dhamdā in the rains. It is now, however, being improved. From Dhamdā, 21 miles from Drug, a branch gravelled road goes north-west for 21 miles to Gandai, and from Patharia, a short distance south of Dhamdā, another road leads to Kumhāri station. This road is nearly 16 miles long and is to be gravelled. The Simgā-Kawardhā road traverses the centre of the Bemetarā tahsīl; it is an important feeder, carrying the produce of the Kawardhā and the north of the Khairāgarh State to Simgā, and thence to Raipur. Its length in the District is 29 miles. A short branch leads from Kharsarā to Khamaria. The road, constructed by the Chhattīsgarh States Division from Dongargarh in Khairāgarh State to Pandaria in Bilāspur, also passes through the District, but does not carry much traffic, running through the zamīndāris of Gandai and Sahaspur-Lohāra. The Mungelī-Nāndghāt and Raipur-Bilāspur roads cross the north-east of the Bemetarā tahsīl, meeting at Nāndghāt on the Seonāth river. A new link is to be made connecting Deokar on the Drug-Bemetarā road with Rāj-Nāndgaon.

Roads south of the railway.

112. To the south of the railway a road has been made from Drug through Gundardehī to Bālod. The section to Gundardehī is in process of being metalled, and that from Gundardehī to Bālod, which is now a gravelled road, will also be raised in class. Gun-

dardehī is further connected with Rāj-Nāndgaon, 23 miles distant, by a gravelled road, of which 13½ miles lie within the District. The gravelled road from Rāj Nāndgaon to Antāgarh in Bastar traverses the west of the District passing Deori, Lohāra and Dondī with a length of 42 miles within its borders. At Lohāra this road is joined by another from Bālod, along which produce from the south of the District is taken to Rāj-Nāndgaon. Another gravelled road has been made from Chitod on the Dhamtarī-Jagdalpur road to Bālod, connecting this tahsīl headquarters with Dhamtarī. And this road will be extended to Muramgaon in Chānda with a length of 71 miles in Drug District. Dhamtarī will thus be connected by a direct road with Chānda town. The Dhamtarī-Jagadalpur road traverses the south-eastern corner of the District for 14½ miles. In the zamīndāris recently received from Chānda a road runs from Rāj-Nāndgaon through Ambāgarh Chaukī to Mohalā in Pānabāras, and will be extended to Mānpur in Korācha. Drug town is connected with the important cattle-market of Ụtai by a gravelled road 9½ miles long.

Statistics.

113. The District has 10½ miles of metalled and 304 of unmetalled roads, of which all except three of the latter class are in charge of the Public Works Department, the annual expenditure on maintenance being Rs. 42,000.

CHAPTER VI.

FORESTS AND MINERALS.

FORESTS.

Government forests.

114. The Government forests consist of a small area of 174 square miles, all of which is situated in the Sanjāri tahsīl, in the south of the District. For purposes of management the forests are included in the Raipur Division, and they consist of the Bālod range and one circle of the Dhamtarī range. In the eastern part of the Bālod range the forest is fairly continuous, though much cut up and intersected by *mālguzāri lands*; but in the west the reserves are comparatively small and scattered. In character the forests are of the dry mixed type common in this part of the Province. It may be distinguished according to the presence or absence of teak wood, the most important timber. A number of the other characteristic species of the Central Provinces are also found. The bulk of the crop consists of ill-grown coppice shoots, springing from tall unsound stools, the result of unregulated fellings in past years, and badly sown seedlings of small girth. Bamboos are met with in the extreme south of the Bālod and the north of the Matewā reserves. The revenue from the forests was Rs. 9000 in 1905-06, of which the greater part was realised from grazing and sales of minor produce.

Private forests.

115. Besides the forests the District has 450 square miles of private forests and grass land in villages and 526 square miles of zamīndāri forest. The forests of Dondi-Lohāra, Ambāgarh Chauki and Pānabāras were at one time valuable

and contained fine teak timber, but this has been almost entirely exhausted and there is nothing now left except stunted ill-grown poles. In the north-west the zamīndāris of Sahaspur-Lohāra and Gandai contain a belt of *sāl*-forest. The only mālguzāri forests of any value are situated in the Sanjāri tahsīl in the south of the District. They have generally also been worked out and contain very little large timber. Some of the village proprietors, however, make considerable profits from grass and lac. The District Council has two fuel and fodder reserves in the Drug tahsīl, at Ruabāndha and Jāmul, the former having an area of 200 acres, and the latter of 475. The reserves are being planted with *babūl* (*Acacia arabica*) and other trees suited for fuel, in order to afford a supply in the vicinity of Drug where it is greatly needed. A small profit is obtained from the sales of thatching-grass grown in the reserves.

Arboriculture.

116. The length of roads in charge of the Public Works Department is 218 miles, of which roadside avenues exist on a length of 40 miles only, including 27 miles of the Great Eastern Road, and seven miles of the Drug-Dhamdā road. The remaining 6 miles are mostly made up by the short lengths of avenues which exist on the Simgā-Kawardhā and Rāj-Nāndgaon-Antāgarh roads. The trees of which these avenues consist are of *nīm*, *bar*, *siris*, pīpal, *babūl*, *karanji* and *imli*. In 1906-07 the Public Works Department was occupied in filling up gaps in the existing avenues on the Great Eastern Road and in continuing the avenues on the Drug-Dhamdā, Simgā-Kawardhā and Rāj-Nāndgaon-Antāgarh roads, besides commencing the avenue on the Dhamdā-Gandai road. They maintained seven nurseries in all, three on the Drug-Dhamdā road, two on the Rāj-Nāndgaon-Antāgarh road, one each at Bemetarā on the Simgā-Kawardhā

road, and at Gundardehī on the Drug-Gundardehī road. The total expenditure on arboriculture amounted to Rs. 773 in 1906-07.

There were no roads in charge of the District Council in 1906-07, and little has therefore been done in the direction of arboriculture by that body. A District arboriculture scheme is under preparation. In the meantime nurseries have been opened at the tahsīl towns of Bemetarā and Bālod in addition to the one maintained at Niwai, and the work of planting trees on bazar sites and camping grounds has been commenced.

MINERALS.

Iron-ores.

117. The following information on the iron-ore deposits of the District is taken from a note by Mr. *P. N.* Bose, published in the Records of the Geological Survey, Vol. xx, Part 4 (1887). The richest and most extensive ores in the District are found in the Dondī-Lohāra zamīndāri at Killekondā, Ungāra, Hirkāpār and other places. The hill of Dallī for about 7 miles of its length is full of good hæmatite, which is developed in hard, red, rather thin-bedded, ferruginous Chilpi sandstone. Deposits of ore were also found by Mr. Bose at Magarkund in Gandai zamīndāri, at Chutrāla, Kunri and Basantapur in Thākurtolā, and near Warārbāndh. At Magarkund the ore worked was red hæmatite occurring as in the alluvium. At Kunri the ore was of considerable extent and occurred in lateritic beds overlying black basaltic rocks, which appeared to be intrusive in the Chilpis. Four specimens of the ores from Dallī, Chutrāla, and Warārbāndh were analysed by Mr. E. J. Jones of the Geological Survey, with the result that they yielded from 53 to 72 per cent. of iron, those from Dallī being the richest. Dallī is most advantageously situated as regards the supply of

water, several springs in the neighbourhood yielding it in a very pure form. The ores have been worked in open furnaces by indigenous methods, being mixed with charcoal in the proportion of one part of ore to three of charcoal. Each furnace employs four persons. In the Sanjāri tahsīl, 19 of such furnaces were being worked in 1907. The metal turned out by the furnace, Mr. Bose states, is refined in an open hearth, and is made into bars called *chuls*, which are sold to blacksmiths at an average rate of five annas per *chul*. The workers are Agarias, a branch of Gonds. They do not pay any royalty to the zamīndār, but give a small fee of two or three rupees annually for the fuel used. A mining concession has now been granted to Messrs. Tata & Sons covering the area of about twelve villages in Dondī-Lohāra zamīndāri, and is the property of the joint stock company known as The Tata Iron and Steel Works.

Other minerals.

118. A stone quarry exists in the village of Sikosa about 13 miles north of Bālod in Gundardehī zamīndāri of Drug tahsīl. It yields lime stone slabs of a bluish colour as large as twenty by ten feet and about three inches thick. The quarry is worked by the Public Works Department, and the stones have been used for the construction of the Drug District Office and for the Secretariat buildings at Nāgpur. Another quarry at Kumhāri yields paving-stones of sandstone of chocolate colour, known as *Jalki* stone. Soft steatite is found at Killekondā in Dondī-Lohāra zamīndāri and is turned into small cups at Bhaberā. Red ochre is obtained in the Gandai and Thākurtolā zamīndāris, and is mixed with the gum of the *salai* tree (*Boswellia serrata*) to form the incense burnt in religious ceremonies. It is also mixed with linseed oil and gum to make paint for protecting wood from rain and damp and from the attacks of white-ants. The pitchers used at marriage ceremonies

are painted with it, and it is applied as an ointment for eruptions. The ochre sells at one anna per seer and the zamīndār takes a royalty of two annas per bullock-load.

CHAPTER VII.

FAMINE.

119. The area now contained in the District has suffered considerably from famine and scarcity in past years; but unfortunately no detailed records relating to it are available, and only a summary of its history can here be given, reference being as usual invited to the Raipur volume for a fuller description. A failure of the crops occurred in 1828-29, and the prices of rice rose to 12 seers to the rupee from a normal rate of anything between 100 and 400 seers. Acute distress necessarily prevailed. In 1834-35 another partial failure of the rice crop occurred, which was aggravated by the depletion of stocks, much grain having been sent towards Jubbulpore in the previous year, on account of the scarcity experienced there. Acute distress prevailed and many people were said to have died of starvation. In 1845 another local famine occurred, the exact causes of which are not stated, but the people were much distressed. The rainfall of Drug was very short both in 1867-68 and 1868-69, amounting only to 23 and 21 inches respectively. Considerable distress was felt in 1869.

Early famines.

In 1877-78 a long break in the rains in September reduced the rice crop by a half, while owing to the absence of cold weather rains the spring crop almost completely failed. The lower classes were in straitened circumstances, but not so much as to require relief. Another short crop was produced by the early cessation of the rains in 1882-83. Again in 1886-87 the September rain was very scanty and unequal, and over most of the District the rice harvest was only about a quarter of an average. The

District Council undertook the construction of the Dhamdā-Drug road and the Bhilai tank, and some proprietors afforded work to their villagers. In the two following years also the rainfall was unequal and the crops poor.

The famine of 1897.

120. Between 1891 and 1895, while the bulk of the Province was suffering from the continued untimely rainfall in the winter months, the Drug District did fairly well. But in 1895-96 the monsoon ceased abruptly in the middle of September and the rice and kodon crops were severely injured, except in the best black soil. Owing to the absence of winter rains the spring crops also gave poor outturns, and a certain amount of distress was felt by the poorer classes. This season was followed by the famine year of 1896-97, when the rainfall was exceptionally heavy up to the end of August and then ceased abruptly. A single fall of nearly 5 inches was recorded at Drug in the second week of September, and after this no rain fell until after the end of October. The early monsoon was so heavy that the Seonāth was in flood seven times and caused serious damage to the riverside villages. All over the District the people had to cut the embankments of their fields to let out the superfluous water. The result was that the rice crop had no reserve of water to fall back on and rapidly withered during the drought. The outturn of rice and kodon was about 40 per cent. of an average crop, and the area under the spring crops was considerably reduced owing to the want of moisture in the soil. A severe famine ensued, the southern part of the present District being one of the most affected tracts of Chhattīsgarh. Of the 20 working-camps opened by the Public Works Department in the old Raipur District, nine lay within the limits of the present District. New roads were made from Kumhāri to Patha-

ria, from Dhamdā to Deorbīja, Dhamdā to Gandai and Drug to Bālod. Many proprietors carried out the repairs of old tanks or the construction of new ones, taking Land Improvement loans, which were subsequently converted into Famine loans without interest and with a drawback. All the other relief measures carried out in Raipur were also applied to Drug. The mortality was very heavy during 1897, rising to about 80 per mille while the birth-rate fell to 27. The price of rice rose to 7½ seers in July and August 1897, being an increase of 140 per cent. on the normal rate.

Famine of 1900.

121. During the next two years the District had fair harvests but the cropped area had fallen considerably owing to the poverty and resourceless condition of the cultivators. But in 1899 the monsoon again completely failed and the rice crop was only nominal. Details of the management of the famine are given in the Raipur District volume. The administration of relief was on a scale hitherto unprecedented, more than 44 per cent. of the entire population being at one time in receipt of subsistence from Government. Of 56 relief-camps under the Public Works Department, 20 lay within the limits of the Drug District. Roads were constructed from Lohāra to Dhamtarī, from Rāj-Nāndgaon to Antāgarh, and from Gundardehī to Arjundā. Irrigation tanks were also built at Sanjāri, Sorli, Maroudā, Arandā Khāpri, Gundardehī, and Arjundā. Large numbers of kitchens were opened, and in the rains two-fifths of the population were receiving cooked food. The mortality of the old Raipur District for the year 1900 was 58 per mille, which cannot be considered severe. It rose in the hot weather owing to the outbreak of cholera. There was a great scarcity of water, and in such an event the sources of supply necessarily became polluted and propagated

diseases. The infant mortality was also heavy on account of the abnormally high birth-rate of the preceding year. The average price of rice for the year 1900 was 10½ seers.

Seasons subsequent to 1900.

122. In the following year the area under the rice crop in the old Drug tahsīl (185,000 acres) had fallen 30 per cent. below that of 1896-97. The centre and north of the tahsīl were in worse condition than the south. Owing to the short sowings and the partial failure of the spring crops from heavy rain in the cold weather, the condition of the people was still a little precarious. In the following year 1901-02, the September rainfall was again very local and capricious, and the rice crop was short. The area covered by spring sowings was limited owing to want of moisture in the soil and the yield was poor owing to the failure of rain in the cold weather. In 1902-1903 the season was even worse. Owing to a long break in July and August the important *biāsi* or thinning operations could not be carried out, and the monsoon finally failed in October. The outturn of the rice crop was estimated at only 30 per cent. of normal, and the spring crops also did poorly. Regular relief operations were undertaken, and the collections of rent and instalments of loans were suspended, while fresh advances were given out on a liberal scale. After this the District enjoyed two prosperous seasons, but again in 1905-06 the rainfall was scanty in August and September, and the rice and kodon both suffered injury. This was followed, with a year's interval, by another bad season in 1907-08, when a long break in July was succeeded by the early cessation of the rains in September, with the result that the rice crop was only about half of the average. The people, however, met the failure of the harvest better than was anticipated, and no regular measures of relief were necessary.

CHAPTER VIII.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Administrative Subdivisions and Staff.

123. At the head of the District is the Deputy Commissioner who is also District Magistrate and District Registrar. He is assisted by three Extra Assistant Commissioners. An Assistant Commissioner may, occasionally, be posted here. For administrative purposes, the District is divided into three tahsīls—Drug, Bemetarā and Sanjāri. The Drug tahsīl, according to recent redistribution, contains 612 villages (including 55 zamīndāri villages), the Bemetarā tahsīl 990 villages (including 334 zamīndāri villages), and the Sanjāri tahsīl 1071 villages (including 795 zamīndāri villages). The District contains 13 zamīndāri estates, one of which is included in the Drug tahsīl, 6 in the Bemetarā tahsīl, and six in the Sanjāri tahsīl. Each tahsīl has a Tahsīldār and a Naib-tahsīldār. The civil staff consists of a Subordinate Judge and one munsiff who is stationed at Bemetarā. The Executive Assistants are appointed additional Judges to the Subordinate Judge, and the Tahsīldār, Bemetarā, additional Judge to the munsiff there for civil work. The Divisional and Sessions Judge of the Chhattīsgarh Division has jurisdiction in this District. The zamīndārs of Khujjī and Ambāgarh-Chauki, and the manager of the southern zamīndāris, which are under the Court of Wards, are Honorary Magistrates. At Gandai there is a bench of Honorary Magistrates. All the Honorary Magistrates exercise 3rd class magisterial powers. The subdivisional system has been introduced into the District. The present Civil Surgeon is a non-commissioned medical officer. There is no separate

Forest Officer, the small area of Government forest being included in the Raipur Forest Division. Drug forms part of the Eastern Public Works Division. The District irrigation is supervised by the Executive Engineer, Mahānadi Irrigation Division, stationed at Raipur.

Land Record Staff.

124. The present Land Record staff consists of 396 patwāris; the supervising staff comprising a Superintendent of Land Records, two Assistant Superintendents of Land Records, and 20 Revenue Inspectors. The headquarters of Revenue Inspectors are at Bori, Bhilai, Kuthrel, Nandkathī, Pandher, Karelā and Gundardehī in the Drug tahsīl; at Nawāgarh, Māro, Anandgaon, Deokar, Baherā, Gandai and Sahaspur-Lohāra in the Bemetarā tahsīl; and at Chaukī, Mohalā, Chikhlī, Bālod, Bhanderā and Gurur in the Sanjāri tahsīl. Each Revenue Inspector has, on an average, 20 patwāris to supervise, and has 134 revenue villages in his circle, the average number of villages to each patwāri's circle being seven. The remuneration of patwāris varies between Rs. 108 and Rs. 144 per annum. The patwāris are not hereditary nor do they hold service land. Since the abolition of the patwāri cess with effect from 1st April 1906, the patwāri staff has been maintained from provincial revenues at an annual cost of Rs. 48,224. Deserving patwāris are rewarded annually in addition to their pay. The patwāris are mainly Chhattīsgarhi Brāhmans. They are men of moderate abilities and require a great deal of supervision. With a few exceptions all the patwāris now reside within their circles.

Crime and litigation.

125. The record of serious crime in the District is not heavy. During the three years ending with 1908, the average number of persons convicted of offences affecting human life was seven, of robbery five, of grievous hurt six, of theft and house-breaking with intent

to commit serious offences, 109 and 65 respectively, and the average number of offences against property was 223. The average number of disposed-of cases was 489. There is no professional crime. False complaints and reports to the police were numerous. Civil litigation was also comparatively light. The total number of civil suits instituted was 2221 in 1908 as against 2349 in 1907, the major portion of which was for the recovery of unsecured grain and cash debts. The general character of civil litigation is simple.

Registration.

126. The office of District Registrar vests in the Deputy Commissioner. The District has three sub-registration offices at Drug, Bemetarā and Bālod, each in charge of a special salaried sub-registrar who receives a fixed salary and also a commission of 3 annas on every document registered. The number of documents registered during the three years 1906, 1907 and 1908 was 487, 633 and 790, and the receipts amounted to Rs. 3116, 3463 and 4270 respectively. The District is included in the Southern Circle of Inspection.

Statistics of revenue.

127. The subjoined table shows the revenue realized from the District under the principal heads of receipt during the years 1906-07 and 1907-08.

Year.	Land Revenue.	Cesses.	Stamps.	Excise.	Registration.	Income-tax.	Other receipts.	Total revenue.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1906-07 ..	4,81,240	29,534	30,792	76,952	3116	2556	1260	(a) 6,25,450
1907-08 ..	3,22,511	25,101	36,712	1,01,954	3463	3791	981	(b) 5,10,463

(*a*) The forest revenue is amalgamated with that of Raipur District. The land-revenue collections include Rs. 9108 on account of the revenue of the preceding year which had been suspended in part of the District owing to partial failure of crops. The figure under cesses includes Rs. 501 on the same account.

(*b*) The land-revenue collections include Rs. 1354 on account of advance collections, but exclude Rs. 4750 on account of remissions, and Rs. 1,62,240 on account of suspensions.

The figure under cesses excludes Rs. 262 on account of remissions and Rs. 5553 on account of suspensions.

Excise.

128. The excise systems prevailing in this District are the Sadar distillery and outstill systems. A small portion of the Drug and Bemetarā tahsīls, contiguous to the Raipur District and covering an area of 207 square miles, was under the Raipur Sadar distillery before the formation of the Drug District. On 1st April 1909 the Sadar distillery system was extended to the whole of the Drug and a part of the Bemetarā tahsīl, and it covers an area of 1306 square miles at present. Spirit is supplied to this area from the Raipur Sadar distillery. Under both the systems the material used for distillation is the mahuā flower. The area under the outstill system is divided into 139 outstill circles, in each of which one or more stills with a certain number of shops for retail vend are allowed. The number and locality of the shops are fixed by the Deputy Commissioner, and all variations require his sanction. The revenue under the outstill system is derived from license fees for the rights of manufacture as well as sale at the outstill and shops. From 1st April 1909 the fermenting capacity of the outstills in the *khālsa* portions of the Bemetarā and Sanjāri tahsīls has been put under restrictions. Under the new arrangement a distiller, who

pays Rs. 250 per annum towards the license fees, is authorised to have a maximum fermenting capacity of 54 gallons. If a distiller works his still at full pressure, the above limitation gives a taxation of R. 1-4 per proof gallon. The number of combined stills and shops on 1st January 1907 was 172, but with the transfer of four zamīndāris from the Chānda District on the 1st October 1907, the number rose to 270. This gave one shop for every 17·5 square miles and every 2505 persons. The large number of shops in the zamīndāri tracts acted as an incentive to drunkenness in the past. Now steps have been taken to reduce the number, and with the introduction of the Sadar distillery system the number of outstill shops has decreased. There are at present 36 Sadar distillery shops and 207 outstill shops, thus giving a shop for 19·3 square miles and 2783 persons. The revenue from country liquor in 1907-08 was Rs. 11,587 and in 1908-09 Rs. 25,193.

Opium.

129. The right of retail sale of opium at each place, where a shop is allowed by Government, is leased annually by auction under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner. The lessees obtain opium from the Government treasury at the rate of Rs. 23-8 a seer. There are 65 opium shops in the District, each fetching on an average an annual revenue of Rs. 1170. The revenue from the license fees during 1908-09 was Rs. 20,835 and from the sale proceeds of Government opium Rs. 55,341.

Gānja.

130. *Gānja* is supplied by wholesale vendors who obtain licenses free of charge and sell the drug at their own price. The right of retail sale is disposed of as in the case of opium. The average supply rate has been Rs. 6-8 a seer. The retail vendors sell the drug to the public at As. 2-6 a tola or Rs. 12-8 a seer. There are 52 *gānja* shops in the

District or one to 90·7 square miles. The license fees for 1908-09 were Rs. 5385, and receipts on account of duty Rs. 5929. Jeypore *gānja* is smuggled in the southern portion of the District through the Kānker State. Special measures are being taken to stop the smuggling. There are thirteen zamīndāris in this District, in seven of which the zamīndārs are the farmers of the excise revenue. The latter pay to the Government farming fees, which represent nearly 60 per cent. of the actual realizations. The preventive staff consists of seven executive Sub-Inspectors, one of whom is in charge of the District excise.

District Council and Local Boards.

131. The District Council was constituted in 1909. Its constitution together with that of the Local Board is given below:—

	Ex-officio.	*Nominated.*	*Elected.*	*Total.*
District Council	..	7	20	27
Drug Local Board	..	5	17	22
Bemetarā ,,	..	5	15	20
Sanjāri ,,	..	5	14	19
Northern Zamīndāri Local Board ..	3	..	2	5
Southern Zamīndāri Local Board ..	4	..	2	6

The total income of the District Fund during 1908-09 was Rs. 78,343 and the total expenditure Rs. 72,845. The receipts were mainly derived from local rates (Rs. 28,148), pounds (Rs. 15,746), and contribution from Provincial Revenues (Rs. 32,000). The expenditure on education amounted to Rs. 32,933, on civil works Rs. 20,015, and under the head ' Medical ' to Rs. 6184.

Municipalities.

132. There are no municipalities in this District. The town of Drug has been constituted a ' notified area' under the Municipal Act with effect from 1st October 1906, and the Committee consists of six nominated members, the



DISTRICT OFFICE, DRUG.

Bemrose, Collo., Derby.

Civil Surgeon being the President and an Extra Assistant Commissioner, the Secretary. The income of the Committee during the year 1908-09 was Rs. 9618. The principal sources of income are *haisiyat* tax and *ganj* fees. The expenditure during the same period amounted to Rs. 11,594. For the sanitary and other improvements of the town and the civil station, a special grant of Rs. 7500 was made by Government during 1908-09 and of Rs. 10,000 during 1909-10.

Village Sanitation.

133. The Village Sanitation Act is not in force in any village in the District. A staff of sweepers has, however, been entertained at Dhamdā, Arjundā, Pātan, and Bhilai in the Drug tahsīl; Nawāgarh, Dārhi, Bemetarā and Deokar in the Bemetarā tahsīl; and at Bālod in the Sanjāri tahsīl, under the Mukaddam Rules framed under the Central Provinces Land Revenue Act.

Public Works.

134. The value of the buildings borne on the books of the Public Works Department in the District is Rs. 4·32 lakhs, and the annual maintenance charges amount to Rs. 3943. The buildings were all constructed at the formation of the District. The principal buildings are: the District court house costing Rs. 1,97,754, the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow costing Rs. 26,317, and bungalows for the District Superintendent of Police and other civil officers. There is no jail at Drug, but a lock-up has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 9000. Buildings with quarters for the Tahsīldār, Naib-tahsīldār and the munsiff have also been constructed at Bemetarā and Bālod. A circuit house and a building for the English school at Drug have been recently sanctioned, and they will be constructed when funds are available. The construction of quarters at Drug for the Tahsīldār and Naib-tahsīldār has been sanctioned.

135. The sanctioned strength of the police force under the District Superintendent consists of 4 Inspectors, 23 Sub-Inspectors, 58 head constables, 3 mounted constables, and 290 men. There is no special reserve in the District, and the ordinary reserve consists of 4 head constables and 20 constables. For administrative purposes the District is divided into 19 Station-house circles. The Station-houses are located at Drug, Dhamdā, Bhilai, Pātan, Ranchirai and Arjundā in the Drug tahsīl; Bemetarā, Nawāgarh, Nāndghāt, Sahaspur-Lohāra, Gandai and Berlā in the Bemetarā tahsīl; and Bālod, Gurur, Dondī (Lohāra), Lohāra (Dondī), Pinkāpār, Ambāgarh-Chauki and Mohalā in the Sanjāri tahsīl. The proportionate strength of the police force is one to every 12 square miles and 1789 persons. The cost of the force in 1908 was Rs. 87,214. Seventy-five per cent. of the recruits belong to the Central Provinces and the remainder to North India. The predominant castes are Muhammadans, Brāhmans, Chhatris and Pankās.

Police.

136. There are 2042 kotwārs for 2261 villages excluding the four zamīndāris which have recently been transferred from the Chānda District. In the tract which was summarily settled by Khān Bahādur Aulād Husain, the remuneration of kotwārs consists of fees in grain recovered from the tenants and a plot of land given rent free by the mālguzār. In the regularly settled parts the kotwārs realize from the tenants at the rate of 3 pies per rupee of rental, the mālguzārs' contribution amounting to either a grant of land rent free or cash, subject to a maximum of a quarter of the total remuneration, which has been fixed at Rs. 36 per annum. The majority of the kotwārs belong to the Gānda, Mehrā and Pankā castes, a few being Chamārs and Chauhāns.

Kotwārs.

137. Drug has no jail. A magisterial lock-up is maintained for undertrial prisoners. It contains accommodation for 39 prisoners including 8 females. Convicted persons are immediately transferred to the Central jail at Raipur. The daily average of undertrial prisoners in 1908-09 was 16 males and one female, and the expenditure amounted to Rs. 1099.

Jail.

138. The District was formed on 1st January 1906, and education has made steady progress since, as the following table shows :—

Education.

Year.	No. of schools.	No. of scholars.	Expenditure.		
			Provincial.	All other sources.	Total.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1906-07	104	9294	18,000	21,756	39,756
1907-08	113	11,341	19,468	25,069	44,537
1908-09	120	11,922	25,669	28,920	53,589

The increase of nine schools in 1907-08 was due to the transfer of four zamīndāris from the Chānda District, and that of seven schools in 1908-09 was the result of direct efforts. In 1906-07 there were only two secondary schools, *viz.*, the Anglo-vernacular school, since provincialized, and the aided vernacular school under the American Evangelical Mission of Raipur. In 1907-08 the Pentecost Mission of Rāj-Nāndgaon added to the list of secondary schools one vernacular middle school for orphans. The number of students that were in

receipt of secondary education in 1906-07 was only 91, but in 1908-09 the number increased to 188, 87 of whom are also receiving English education.

Female education.—Prior to 1908-09 there were only two Government schools for girls and one aided school under the American Evangelical Mission. Two more schools have since been opened by Government. Besides the girls that are receiving education in the above five schools, many are reading in the boys' schools under the District Council. In 1906-07 the number of girls under instruction was 1167, in 1907-08, 1763, and in 1908-09 the number rose to 2163. Though during the short period of three years female education has shown steady progress, yet it is still in the background.

School for lepers.—At Ghutia near Chandkhurī the Mission to Lepers in India and the East maintains an aided mixed school for lepers, and there are 14 scholars on the roll.

Private school.—There is only one private boys' school in the District which is under the patronage of the zamīndār of Dondī-Lohāra. The number of boys on the roll is 100.

The average number of scholars in 1908-09 per school for the District was 99, and the percentage of children under instruction to those of school-going age was 11·6.

Village school libraries.—In 1908 an attempt was made to establish village school libraries for the benefit of school-masters and the reading public in general. Three such libraries have already been started at the head-quarters of each tahsīl. It is under contemplation to form a committee of influential mālguzārs for the advancement of the village school libraries.

Village school-masters.—The total number of masters in the District Council schools is 263, out of which 97 are certificated. Of late an improvement has been effected

in their salaries, and it is hoped that this will act as an inducement to young men to undergo a course of training in the art of teaching. The village school-master generally commands a good deal of influence in the village. He is post-master and stamp-vendor, as a rule, in villages where there is a post-office; he is also letter-writer and general referee. A good school-master is a great civilising agent in a village.

Depressed and aboriginal classes.—The first and the foremost obstacle in the way of making education far reaching is the bundle of prejudices that a school master carries with him. When he rids himself of the prejudices, the state of affairs will rapidly change and then it will become easy to diffuse education among the depressed classes, including the persecuted Chamārs. The Muhammadan population of the District is negligible, and no special remarks are called for upon the subject of their education.

Education administration.—This District is included in the Chhattīsgarh Circle of Inspection, and has hitherto been in charge of a single Deputy Inspector. The heaviness of the charge has been recognised by the Department, and the Local Government has recently sanctioned its division into two ranges with effect from 1st October 1909.

Medical relief.

139. There are six dispensaries in the District; two at Drug, including the police hospital, and one each at Bemetarā, Gandai, Bālod and Ambāgarh-Chauki. The Drug main dispensary has been provided with accommodation for 15 indoor patients. The daily average of indoor patients was five in 1908 and that of outdoor patients of all the dispensaries in the District was 173·69. The income of the dispensaries was Rs. 5390, derived from Provincial Revenues and Local Funds. A midwife is attached to the main dispensary at Drug. The principal

diseases treated are malarial fever, skin diseases, and diseases of the eye and of the respiratory system. In 1908, 399 surgical operations were performed.

A Leper Asylum is maintained at Chandkhurī by the Mission to Lepers in India and the East. It contains on an average 340 lepers. The Asylum receives from Government a capitation grant of R. 1-8 per mensem for adults, and As. 12 for tainted children. Provincial grants of Rs. 2500 and Rs. 5000 were made for building purposes during 1906-07 and 1908-09 respectively.

On the abolition of the Leper Asylum at Nāgpur in 1908, all the Government lepers were transferred to Chandkhurī, and for their maintenance a capitation grant of Rs. 5 for adults and Rs. 3 for tainted children is made. Buildings for their accommodation are in course of construction there at an estimated cost of Rs. 13,673. It is proposed to construct a *pucca* well at a cost of Rs. 2187. A Board of visitors to the Asylum has been constituted as follows:—

The Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, Central Provinces. (*President.*)

The Commissioner, Chhattīsgarh Division.

The Sessions Judge, Chhattīsgarh Division.

The Deputy Commissioners, Raipur, Bilāspur and Drug.

The Civil Surgeon, Drug.

A representative of the Mission to Lepers in India and the East—who will be subsequently nominated.

The Superintendent, Chandkhūri Leper Asylum. (*Secretary.*)

There is also a veterinary dispensary at Drug, to which two veterinary assistants are attached, one of whom is peripatetic and tours about in the District. Now that the Veterinary Department has been provincialized, they receive their salary from Government.

Vaccination is not compulsory, but it is carried on over the whole District in the open season. The staff consists of a native Assistant Superintendent, and twelve vaccinators and one apprentice vaccinator. The total number of primary vaccinations in 1908-09 was 25,729, the ratio being 38·04 per mille of population. The ratio of success was 36·89 per mille of population. Over 77 per cent. of the children born and surviving to one year of age were vaccinated. The number of re-vaccinations was 603. The total cost of the Department amounted to Rs. 2757.

APPENDIX.

GAZETTEER OF TAHSILS, ZAMINDARIS, TOWNS, IMPORTANT VILLAGES, RIVERS AND HILLS.

APPENDIX.

GAZETTEER OF TAHSILS, ZAMINDARIS, TOWNS, IMPORTANT VILLAGES, RIVERS AND HILLS.

Natural features.

Ambāgarh Chaukī.—A well-developed zamīndāri transferred from Chānda to this District on the 1st of October, 1907, along with Pānabāras, Korācha and Aundhī, all of which have been included in the Sanjāri tahsīl. It is situated on the western highlands, sloping gradually on the north towards the Nāndgaon State plain. It is bounded on the north by the Nāndgaon State, on the south by the Pānabāras and Kotgal zamīndāris, on the west by the Palāsgarh zamīndāri of the Chānda District, and on the east by the Khujjī zamīndāri and a part of the *khālsa* tract, separated by the river Surkī, which, after joining another rivulet, assumes the name of Dongar-nadi. This estate is the most open of all the zamīndāris. The south-western corner is jungly, and so, in rather less degree, is the narrow strip extending north of this to the Nāndgaon boundary. All the country to the east of this, though it would perhaps be regarded as jungly in other Districts, is far less so than any other tract in the zamīndāris. There are numerous hills scattered over the estate, chiefly along the southern border and in a tract extending from Chaukī Khās to the northern boundary. They rarely run into ranges. The eastern half of the zamīndāri is the most highly developed, and especially so in the north-east; it is in this portion that the best and largest villages are situated. The Seonāth river flows through

the estate, entering it from the south-western corner and forming its north-eastern boundary, and leaves it at the point where it is met by the Dongar river. Chaukī, the headquarters of the estate, is situated on the east bank of the Seonāth, which there sweeps round to the south, and then up again northwards. The village stands in a fine expanse of open cultivated country with low hills dotted about and surrounded by several mango groves. The area of the estate is 250 square miles, all of which is surveyed, and all except about 3 square miles of forest is included in village areas. It contains 232 villages, of which 163 are inhabited.

History.

The zamīndāri has been held by the present Khatulwār-Gond family for about 900 years. The original grant was made by the Gond Rājās of Chānda. The family is supposed to have come from Mandlā originally, but when or how tradition does not say, and the zamīndār possesses no documents of any antiquity. What is now the Kotgal zamīndāri is stated once to have been included in Ambāgarh Chaukī, but the severance appears to have taken place several hundred years ago. About the close of the last century Ambāgarh Chaukī lost a second tāluk, that of Virgaon, which was conferred by the Nāgpur Rājā on the Musalmān Dīwān of the Wairāgarh chiefs, and now forms part of the Gewardhā estate. The name of the present zamīndār is Lāl Indra Shāh. He is 26 years of age, has been educated up to the Middle School Standard, and has a fair knowledge of Hindī, English and Marāthī. He is an Honorary Magistrate of the 3rd class and is exempted under the Arms Act. Of the total villages in the zemīndāri, 111 are held by *thekādārs*, 13 by *muāfidārs* and *maktedārs*, 1 by an inferior proprietor, while the remainder are managed direct. The majority of the *muāfi* grants are for maintenance of relatives, most of them

being ancient grants, and the relationship of the holders with the present zamīndār remote. The zamīndār intends in several cases to resume the grants, but litigation will probably be necessary. The income of the estate is Rs. 14,000 and expenditure Rs. 10,000. Owing to the minority of the zamīndār the estate was under the Court of Wards for 10 years, and in 1904 it was relinquished free of debt and with a cash balance of Rs. 15,000.

Population.

In 1901 the population was 22,786 persons, having decreased by 28 per cent. during the previous decade. The population of the estate had always been on the increase since 1868 owing to immigration from the Raipur District. The heavy decrease is due to the recent famines, especially that of 1899-1900. Large numbers returned to Raipur, and many others died of small-pox and cholera. Gonds form the majority of the population. The density is 110 persons per square mile as against 146 for the District. There is no large village in the zamīndāri except Ambāgarh Chaukī, the headquarters of the estate, the population of which was 1285 persons in 1901.

Agriculture.

The best soils are in the north and north-east where there is a considerable amount of double-cropping which could be extended. In other parts of the zamīndāri the soils are mainly *morand* and *bardī*, suitable for rice, but not adapted for *rabi* cultivation. In the south-west *bardī* is more in evidence than *morand*. Of the total area of 162,283 acres, 75,115 acres or 46 per cent. were occupied for cultivation in 1906-07. The cultivated area was 64,137 acres, and the gross cropped area was 53,826 acres, of which 5732 were double-cropped. Rice is the principal crop, the area sown in that amounting to 20,932 acres. Next in importance is kodon-kutkī, with an area of 15,318

acres. Linseed covers 7048 acres. The other crops are of no importance.

Land Revenue.

The original Government demand paid by the zamīndār was Rs. 21, which was raised to Rs. 400 at the settlement of 1866-68, when the settlement of all the zamīndāris was made for a period of 20 years. In 1888 a summary settlement was effected, and in 1892 the forest *takolī* was revised; after this the revenue *takolī* of the estate stood at Rs. 675, and cesses at Rs. 1007. At the recent settlement the total income of the estate was estimated at Rs. 25,398-14 including Rs. 8206 as forest and miscellaneous income. On this amount a revenue *takolī* of Rs. 2000 and cesses of Rs. 869 were fixed. This settlement runs from 1st July 1905 to 30th June 1919. In 1906-07 the income from land was Rs. 16,377-15, and that from *siwai* Rs. 3472.

Miscellaneous.

The estate is conveniently situated near the Bengal-Nāgpur Railway and with good management should develop considerably. The second-class road which connects Rāj-Nāndgaon with Mohalā passes through Chaukī. The road was constructed while the estate was under the management of the Court of Wards. Fair weather roads link up the chief villages of the estate, and rice, linseed and other produce are exported by the Mohalā-Nāndgaon road to the railway station at Raj-Nāndgaon. A Revenue Inspector has his headquarters at Chaukī which also contains a branch post-office. A large bazar is held at Bāndha, which is therefore called Bāndha Bazār. Chaukī is about 34 miles from Bālod and 49 miles from Drug *viā* Rāj-Nāndgaon. The District Council maintains four primary schools in this zamīndāri, *viz.*, at Chaukī, Chilhati, Antargaon and Kaodikasā.

Arjundā.—A village in the Drug tahsīl about 17 miles south of Drug. The population was 1150 persons in

1901, having decreased by 400 during the previous decade. Weekly markets for the sale of cattle, grain and cloth are held on Mondays and Tuesdays. A police-Station-house, a primary school and a branch post-office are located here. The village is under the Mukaddam Rules and a small sum is raised annually for sanitary purposes. The proprietors are wealthy Baniās of Raipur who own 42 other villages.

Natural features.

Aundhī Zamīndāri.—Aundhī is a small jungly and rugged estate remotely situated to the south of the District. It contains 81 square miles, 59 square miles of which consist of unsurveyed hill and forest. The forest contains little teak or *shīsham*. The cultivated portion lies in an irregular strip running across the middle of the zamīndāri from east to west. But even this portion consists of small villages surrounded on all sides by forest. The soil is sandy and yellow with occasional stretches of black. The estate is bounded on the north by Muramgaon, west by Dhanorā, and south by Jharāpāpra, all the three zamīndāris of the Chānda District, on the south-east by the Bastar State, and on the north-east by the Korācha zamīndāri. The principal village of the estate is Aundhī, a hamlet of 18 houses, inhabited by Rāj-Gonds and Halbās. It is prettily situated on a high tableland immediately at the foot of a hill. The estate contains 43 small villages of which 20 are inhabited. Thirteen villages are held by *maktedārs*, 15 by *thekādārs*, and the remainder are managed direct.

History.

The estate was originally a part of the Pānabāras zamīndāri, but at some unknown date it became separate under a private partition. Subsequently the Aundhī family became extinct and it was restored to the Pānabāras zamīndāri in whose possession it now is. The zamīn-

dāri of Korācha intervenes between Pānabāras and Aundhī, which is due to the fact that Korācha was also a part of Pānabāras before the latter was split up by partition.

Population.

In 1901 the population was 906 persons, having decreased by 52 per cent. during the previous decade. The estate is very sparsely populated, having a density of only 11 persons per square mile as against 146 for the District. The reasons for the decrease are the tendency of the Māria Gonds who form the majority of the population to migrate on the least excuse, the famines of 1896 and 1899 which accentuated this tendency, and deaths from cholera and small-pox which spread during the famines in relief camps. There is no large village in the estate, Aundhī the headquarters having a population of 75 only.

Agriculture.

Of the total area of 14,261 acres, 1566 acres or about 11 per cent. were occupied for cultivation in 1906-07. The cultivated area was 1171 acres, the gross cropped area 1019 acres, of which 57 were double-cropped. Rice is the principal crop occupying 716 acres, and linseed and kodon-kutkī are grown in a small area.

Land Revenue.

The zamīndār was originally paying Rs. 21 as Government demand for the Aundhī and Pānabāras zamīndāris. At the settlement of 1866-68 the income of the Aundhī estate was estimated at Rs. 214, on which Rs. 37 were assessed. This settlement was made for a period of 20 years, and on the expiration of this period in 1888 a summary settlement was effected and a *takolī* of Rs. 124 and cesses of Rs. 49 were fixed on an estimated income of Rs. 1900. At the last settlement, which runs from 1st July 1905 to 30th June 1919, the total income of the estate was estimated at Rs. 862-6 including Rs. 589-8 as forest

and miscellaneous income; on this a *takolī* of Rs. 50 and Rs. 24-12 on account of cesses were fixed. The cesses however exclude a sum of Rs. 27 fixed as patwāri cess which was abolished in 1906. In 1906-07 the income from land was Rs. 308-12, and from forest Rs. 3010.

Miscellaneous.

By the shortest route Aundhī is 90 miles from Bālod and 124 miles from Drug. There is a small market and a branch post-office at Aundhī, but there is no school in the zamīndāri.

Bālod.—The headquarters village of the Sanjāri tahsīl, situated on the left bank of the Tandulā river, 35 miles south of Drug and 34 miles from Rāj-Nāndgaon. Its area is 2300 acres, and the population in 1901 was 1200 persons as against more than 1800 in 1891. On the constitution of the Drug District in 1906, Bālod became the headquarters of the Sanjāri tahsīl, but the name Bālod was considered unsuitable for the tahsīl as it was likely to be confused with the Balodā Bazār tahsīl of Raipur. The village is an old one and has several temples, most of which are now in ruins. A group of seven temples stands on the bank of a small square tank called the Kapileshvara; two of these are quite modern and are built of the fragments of older ones. Two inscriptions were found here but have now been removed. There are numerous *sati* pillars, and one interesting specimen of these stands on the roadside about half a mile east of the village. This pillar contains three inscriptions of separate immolations, but the dates of the first two are partly worn away. One of them was read by Mr. Hīra Lāl as 1005, and if this be attributed to the Vikrama era it would make the stone about a thousand years old. A third and still older inscription is ascribed by Prinsep to the second century A.D., and if he is correct this would be the earliest *sati* monument in existence.

inhabited sites in Chhattīsgarh, the total number being about 25. The large Būdha tank stands on high ground, and in years of drought the lands of four villages can be irrigated from its water. A fort built of bricks plastered with lime stands on the bank of this tank. Parts of the walls remain and there are one or two fine gateways Some remains of statues have also been collected on the embankment of the tank. The village is close to reserved forest. A feature of the place is the large number of custard-apple and mango trees. There is some trade in lac and myrabolans, and a weekly market is held on Wednesdays, at which iron from Dondī-Lohāra and agricultural implements are sold. New tahsīl buildings with quarters for the officials have recently been erected, and there are also a primary school, a *sarai*, a police Station-house, a dispensary, a post-office, and an Inspection bungalow. The Mukaddam Rules are in force, and a sum of about Rs. 200 is raised annually for purposes of sanitation. The proprietor is a Jogi.

Banbarad.—A village in the Drug tahsīl, about 14 miles north of Drug near Nandkathī. Its area is 2800 acres, and the population was 600 persons in 1901 as against 800 in 1891. The village contains a temple of Rāmchandra with the remains of other old buildings, the images of a cow and a calf and a small stone well. A person who kills a cow should come and bathe here and worship the images, and his sin will be removed. There are various tanks including a sacred tank called Gatwā to which people come to bathe. The people say that the place was once a residence of the Haihayavansī Rājās of Ratanpur. The proprietor is a Baniā.

Barbaspur Zamīndāri.—A small zamīndāri situated in the Bemetarā tahsīl consisting of two tracts situated about six

Natural features.

miles apart, the western tract lying south of the Silheti zamīndāri and enclosed by the Gandai zamīndāri on the west and south and touching Khairāgarh State on the east, while the eastern tract which is pipe-shaped has its funnel surrounded by Chhuikhadān State on the left and the bottom, Nāndgaon on the right and Khairāgarh on the top, the stem lying horizontal enclosed by the Chhuikhadān State and Gandai zamīndāri. The area of the zamīndāri is about 32 square miles which is divided into two blocks separated from each other by the Gandai zamīndāri. The western block consisting of ten villages lies in jungle-clad country below the *ghāts*. The soil is poor and the inhabited village area is surrounded on three sides by hills. The eastern block consisting of four villages is comprised in four small groups separated from each other by villages of Gandai zamīndāri. Except in the neighbourhood of the Surhī river, the soil of the tract is *dorsā* and *kanhār* of good quality and the country open and fertile. *Rabi* crops are generally grown. The zamīndāri has an area of 6 square miles under forest containing a variety of trees but there is no valuable timber.

History.

The zamīndār is a member of the Gandai family and is a Dhur Gond by caste. The family tree is given below :—

Ajītsingh
|
Basantsingh
|
Umedsingh
|
Kishansingh — Baldeosingh
|
Toransingh (present zamīndār)

The zamīndāri was separated from the Gandai estate during the reign of Bāji Rao the last of the Bhonslas.

On the death of Umedsingh, the estate passed to Baldeosingh as he was born of the married wife of Umedsingh. Subsequently however Kishansingh claiming to be older than Baldeosingh obtained possession of the estate by a civil suit. Owing to the indebtedness of the zamīndār the estate was taken under the management of the Court of Wards on 8th March 1897. The debts amounted to Rs. 20,000 of which all but Rs. 2382 have been paid. The zamīndār Toransingh is 38 years of age and bears the title of 'Thākur.' He is a Darbāri, a Khās-mulākāti, and has been exempted from the operations of the Arms Act, his fifteen retainers being similarly exempt. The zamīndār lives in Sonjhari in the western block of villages. He takes little interest in agriculture although one village has been made over to him by the Court of Wards. The zamīndāri contains 23 villages, 4 of these are managed direct, 2 are held in inferior proprietary right, 13 by *thekādārs*, one by the zamīndār and one by a *muāfidār*, a relative of the zamīndār. Protected status has been conferred on three *thekādārs*. The *thekādārs* are mostly Telis.

Population.

In 1901 the population was 2992 persons, having decreased by 28 per cent. during the previous decade. The decrease is attributed, as in all the zamīndāris, to the severity of the recent famines. The density is 93 persons per square mile as against 79 for the combined zamīndāris and 146 of the District. There is no large village in the estate. Barbaspur has itself a population of 134 persons. There is a District Council primary school at Barbaspur, the headquarters of the zamīndāri, but there is no post-office in the estate. The principal castes of inhabitants are Chamārs, Telis and Gonds.

Agriculture.

Of the total area of the estate, 10,722 acres or 61 per cent. were occupied for cultivation in 1906-07, the croppod area

being 8378 acres. Kodon-kutkī is the staple crop of the estate and covers an area of 4805 acres. In the eastern block it is sown in black-soil land in rotation with wheat, but it practically forms the sole crop of the cultivators in the western block. Wheat covers an area of 1443 acres and rice an area of 750 acres.

Land Revenue.

The revenue demand was Rs. 922-7-10 commuted to Government rupees at the time of partition from Gandai. At Mr. Hewitt's settlement of 1866-68 the income was estimated at Rs. 2500 on which a revenue of Rs. 930 was fixed. At Mr. Carey's summary settlement of 1888-89 the gross income of the estate from land and forest was estimated at Rs. 6720 on which a *kāmil jamā* of Rs. 4874 was proposed. On this a *takolī* of Rs. 2178 and a mālguzāri cess of Rs. 575 was fixed. At Mr. Scott's settlement of 1901-02, a gross income of Rs. 6251 was estimated on which a *kāmil jamā* of Rs. 4370 was proposed. On this a *takolī* of Rs. 2080 with a cess of Rs. 589 was fixed. The cesses have however since been reduced to Rs. 240 owing to the abolition of additional rate and patwāri cess. The average rent-rate falls at As. 11-10 per acre as against 9 annas at the regular settlement of 1866-68.

Miscellaneous.

Barbaspur is 34 miles from Drug and 40 miles from Raj-Nāndgaon. The Dongargarh-Pandaria road runs through the tract of country separating the western from the eastern block of the zamīndāri and affords facilities for an export trade in grain. Wheat, til and gram are sold to traders of Gandai for export to Dongargarh.

Descriptive.

Bemetarā Tahsīl.—The northern tahsīl of the District, which was constituted in 1906. It was made up of a tract of 363 square miles from the western part of the Mungelī tahsīl of Bilāspur, 614 square miles comprised in six zamīndāri estates

of the old Drug tahsīl, and 589 square miles forming the portion of the old Simgā tahsīl of Raipur lying west of the Khārun and Seonāth rivers. The tahsīl lies between 21° 20′ and 22° N. and 80° 43′ and 82° 2′ E. It is a tract of irregular shape. The southern part of the mālguzāri area consists of the tracts transferred from Simgā; to the north of the Hānp river which was formerly the boundary between Raipur and Bilāspur, lies the area transferred from Mungelī tahsīl consisting roughly of the Nawāgarh and Māro Revenue Inspectors' circles; while to the north-west are the six zamīndāris received from Drug, lying on the slopes of the hills, and separated from the mālguzāri area by isolated tracts of the Khairāgarh, Nāndgaon and Chhuikhadān States. The tahsīl is bounded on the north by Bilāspur District and Kawardhā State, on the east by the Balodā Bazār tahsīl of Raipur, on the south by the Drug tahsīl, and on the west by the Khairāgarh and Chhuikhadān States and the Bālāghāt District. Its area is 1566 square miles or 34 per cent. of that of the District. The mālguzāri area of the tahsīl is all open country devoid of jungle. The Seonāth river running north past Dhamdā of the Drug tahsīl enters Bemetarā at the point where the Surī joins it from the north-west, some six miles beyond Dhamdā. Six or seven miles further on, it turns sharp to the east, and receiving the Dotū and Kurrā rivers from the north flows to its junction with the Khārun, when it turns again north and north-east and borders Bemetarā till it passes into Bilāspur. The mālguzāri area north of the Seonāth is well supplied by the rivers and streams already mentioned, to which may be added the Jia and many smaller ones. With the exception of a few along the Simgā-Kawardhā road, the villages consist of a fertile and closely cultivated black-soil plain. Towards the north and west

spring crop cultivation is of more importance than rice. The tract south of the Seonāth is watered by only one large stream, the Lor, but there are many small nullahs, and the opportunities afforded for irrigation by tanks and channels have been largely utilised by a good colony of Manwar or Manua Kurmīs, who hold many villages to the south. A few villages with Chamār tenantry, bordering on the Nandkathī tract of Drug District, are in poor condition. The Parporī zamīndāri estate is in the open plain, but the others are situated on the slopes of the Sātpurā and Maikal ranges and have much hill and forest, the most densely wooded estates being Sahaspur-Lohāra and Thākurtolā.

Population.

In 1901, the population of the area now forming the tahsīl was 242,549 persons or 35 per cent. of the District total. In 1891 the population of the same area was 290,238 persons, and the decrease in population during the decade was 17 per cent. The belt of black soil lying to the east of the Sātpurā hills, in which the bulk of the mālguzāri area of Bemetarā is comprised, suffered from a more unfavourable succession of bad harvests during the decade 1891-1901 than any part of the Province except the Vindhyan plateau. The decrease of population was 13 per cent. in the mālguzāri area and 30 per cent. in the zamīndāris. The density of population is 154 persons per square mile, being 202 in the mālguzāri area and 79 in the zamīndāris. The tahsīl contains 990 villages of which 107 are uninhabited. In 1901 only Nawāgarh (2496) had a population of more than 2000 persons, while thirteen villages contained between 1000 and 2000 persons. Kurmīs and Brāhmans are the principal proprietors in the mālguzāri area, and there are colonies of Telis, Lodhīs, Rājputs, Baniās and Gosains. Many villages have been partitioned, and there are many distributions by

private arrangement. Many of the mālguzārs are well-to-do, especially the Kurmīs and Brāhmans. Among the tenants, Kurmīs and Telis stand first and act as a check on the Chamārs, who are numerically strong. Telis rank next. The Chamār question is not nearly so acute in this tract as in other parts of the District, and in many villages where they outnumber the other tenantry they even pay their rents regularly and without pressure.

Agriculture.

The tahsīl contains the six zamīndāri estates of Sahaspur-Lohāra, Silhetī, Barbaspur, Gandai, Thākurtolā and Parporī. These cover 614 square miles or 39 per cent. of the total area and contain 48,327 or 20 per cent. of the population. They form a tract of entirely different character from the rest of the tahsīl, are largely populated by Gonds, and more akin to the adjoining Bālāghāt District than to the Chhattīsgarh plain. Of the zamīndāri area, 50 square miles or 8 per cent. of the total area are covered by forest. Of the mālguzāri village area, excluding the zamīndāris, a proportion of 80½ per cent. was occupied for cultivation in 1907-08. The cultivated area was 473,167 acres and the gross cropped area 427,647 acres, 35,634 acres of this being double-cropped. In the zamīndāris the proportion of occupied area was 67 per cent. The cultivated area was 128,846 acres and the gross cropped area 103,728 acres, 2617 acres of this being double-cropped. The statistics of cropping for the last three years are shown in the subjoined statement.

Rice, wheat and kodon are the staple crops covering respectively 29, 18, and 32 per cent. of the total cropped area. In the black-soil tracts kodon and *arhar* are grown in rotation with wheat. In a favourable season after-crops of the pulses urad, tiurā and *batrā* or peas are sown in the black-soil rice-fields. The soil is considered to be the most fertile in the Drug District and the Manwar or

Statistics of Cropping.

Year.		Rice.	Wheat.	Kodon-kutki.	Linseed.	Gram.	Cotton.	Arhar.	Til.	Tiurā-Lākh	Masūr.	Urad, Mūng and Moth.	Peas.	Sugarcane.	Tobacco.	Double-cropped.	Total cropped area.*	Irrigated.	REMARKS.
905-06	Khālsa ..	144,465	106,854	136,113	18,738	10,080	1140	154	1694	11,046	10,074	11,961	30,139	204	..	64,548	495,706	3338	
	Zamīndāris	12,302	21,132	58,419	4432	2313	3423	538	2061	87	551	1604	779	21	..	3029	111,455	257	
	Total ..	156,767	127,987	194,532	23,170	12,393	4563	692	3755	11,133	10,625	13,565	30,918	225	..	67,577	607,161	3595	
906-07	Khālsa ..	134,940	109,590	115,304	28,220	7589	637	28,083	2223	12,891	10,204	12,861	39,355	248	..	78,234	515,552	3927	
	Zamīndāris	11,771	21,664	55,011	4591	1881	2821	5164	2895	54	589	1539	791	20	..	2617	112,638	151	
	Total ..	146,711	131,254	170,315	32,811	9470	3458	33,247	5118	12,945	10,793	14,400	40,146	268	..	80,851	628,190	4078	
907-08	Khālsa ..	142,530	76,379	114,992	9152	6512	471	19,073	2867	7542	5357	8956	17,966	257	191	35,634	427,647	14,523	
	Zamīndāris	12,422	18,435	53,312	331	1684	2229	5148	4823	27	117	1310	231	18	77	1030	103,728	543	
	Total ..	154,952	94,814	168,304	9483	8196	2700	24,221	7690	7569	5474	10,266	18,197	275	268	36,664	531,375	15,066	
ercentage of area under each crop on the total cropped area in 1907-08.		29	18	32	2	1·5	0·5	5	1	1	1	2	3	·05	·05	7			

* Includes double-cropped area.

Manua Kurmīs are good agriculturists. In the south irrigation facilities, especially channels, are more widely utilised than in any other part of the District, and in the north the embankments of rice-fields are repaired regularly. Embankments of a temporary nature are also made for wheat-land.

Land Revenue.

In 1907-08 the demand for land revenue in the mālguzāri area was Rs. 1.67 lakhs and for cesses Rs. 9000. The *kāmil-jamā*, or full assessment at mālguzāri rates of the zamīndāri estates was Rs. 48,000, and on this a *takolī* of Rs. 24,000 was fixed, with cesses of Rs. 6500. The average revenue rate per acre on the cultivated area was As. 5-7. The area transferred from Bilāspur is now being re-settled by Mr. Hance. The tract received from Simgā was summarily settled by Khān Bahādur Aulād Husain in 1885-87, and this settlement is still in force. It was attested by Mr. Blenkinsop in 1902 and has been re-attested by Mr. Hemingway in 1909. The zamīndāris were settled by Mr. Scott in 1903 for 8 years expiring in 1911.

Miscellaneous.

The tahsīl is divided into seven Revenue Inspectors' circles with headquarters at Māro, Nawāgarh, Anandgaon, Deokar, Baherā, Gandai and Sahaspur-Lohāra, and into 134 patwāris' circles. It contains six police Station-houses at Bemetarā, Nawāgarh, Nāndghāt, Gandai, Berlā and Sahaspur-Lohāra.

Bemetarā Village.—The headquarters of the Bemetarā tahsīl, situated 47 miles north-west of Drug by road, and 24 miles from Tildā station by the Simgā-Kawardhā road. The road from Drug is metalled as far as Deokar and the remainder is under construction. The population was 1200 persons in 1901 as against 1400 in 1891. The proprietors are two well-to-do Kabīrpanthī Kurmīs, and the



Bemrose, Collo., Derby.

INTERIOR OF OLD TEMPLE, DEO-BALODA.

inhabitants are principally of the same caste, with a few traders who have settled here since the formation of the tahsīl. Two weekly markets are held, one on Wednesdays and one on Saturdays. The village has a vernacular middle school, a post-office, a dispensary, a police Station-house, a *sarai* and an Inspection bungalow. New tahsīl buildings have recently been constructed at a cost of Rs. 22,000. The village is under the Mukaddam Rules and a small fund is raised for purposes of sanitation.

Chandkhurī.—A small village in the Bemetarā tahsīl, about 8 miles from Nāndghāt on the Raipur-Bilāspur road and 27 miles from Bemetarā. Its area is 2500 acres, and the population was 900 persons in 1901. An important station of the American Evangelical Mission of the Lutheran Church is situated here. Besides general evangelical work, the Mission maintains a school for boys and girls at Baitalpur with the assistance of a Government grant. The Missionary at Chandkhurī is also in charge of the Leper Asylum, containing 400 lepers, which is maintained here by the Mission to Lepers in India and the East. A separate school for lepers is attached to the Asylum. The proprietor of the village is a Gosain.

Chaurel.—A small village in the Gundardehī zamīndāri about a mile west of the Tandulā river. It contains some good stone carvings.

Dallī Hills.—A range of hills in the Dondī-Lohāra zamīndāri of the Sanjāri tahsīl, containing extensive deposits of iron ore.

Deo Balodā.—A village in the Drug tahsīl about 14 miles east of Drug and 2 miles from Bhilai railway station. The population was 800 persons in 1901. The village has a ruined temple of Siva with some interesting sculptures, of which the most notable are representations of a boar hunt. Some panels also contain separate carvings of boars. The hunters are armed with

spears and it is said that boars were once very common here and were killed in this manner. The figures inside the temple on the four central pillars and the entrance of the sanctum are richly carved and highly polished. Over the entrance is a figure of Ganesh and over him is Saraswati, the goddess of learning. Close by is a large stone well and a tank. It is said that the architect of the temple was engaged in placing the pinnacle on its summit, being obliged to work in a state of nudity, when he was surprised by his sister bringing his food. He leaped into the tank followed by his sister and both turned into stones. The temple is in the mediæval Brahmanic style and has several obscene carvings. The proprietor is a Kurmī.

Deokar.—A large village in the Bemetarā tahsīl about 17 miles south-west of Bemetarā on the Surhī river. Its area is 2600 acres and the population was 1760 persons in 1901 as against 1900 in 1891. Some remains of temples and *sati* pillars are found here. The proprietor and many of the residents are Baniās. Markets are held on Sundays and Wednesdays, to which considerable quantities of grain and cloth are brought for sale. The village has a primary school and a branch post-office. It is under the Mukaddam Rules and a small fund is raised for sanitary purposes.

Dhamdā.—An old and important village in the Drug tahsīl, situated 21 miles north of Drug on the Bemetarā road and three miles from the Seonāth river. The legend is that Dhamdā was founded by some Gond brothers, to whom the Sardhā pargana was granted by the Rājā of Ratanpur as a reward for their skill in capturing a mad elephant. The brothers are said to have discovered a large house with two tanks and two temples in the forest, and being pleased with the place settled there and founded Dhamdā. There are the remains of an old fort which belonged to the Gond chiefs of the place,

who may or may not have been the descendants of the original founders. These chiefs are also said to have been five brothers known as the Panchbhaiyās, because when attacked by the enemy they fought in a circle standing back to back. The fort has two fine gateways still standing and inside it are several ruined temples. The large Būdha tank adjoins the fort and there is also another tank and several fine groves of trees. Dhamdā was once the best-known place in Chhattīsgarh next to Ratanpur, and Raipur itself was known as Dhamdā-Raipur to indicate its position. The area of the village is 3600 acres and the population in 1901 was 2600 persons as against nearly 3000 in 1891. A small brass-working industry is carried on here, and there are a number of betel-vine-gardens the produce of which is exported to Nāgpur. A number of moneylenders reside in the village and there is some trade in grain, the Dhamdā tract being a centre of wheat cultivation. A large weekly market is held on Tuesdays. The village has a primary school, a police Station-house, a branch post-office, and an Inspection bungalow. The Mukaddam Rules are in force and a sum of about Rs. 160 is raised annually for purposes of sanitation.

Dondi-Lohāra Zamīndāri.—Situated in the south of Drug in the Sanjāri tahsīl about 40 miles from Drug and 5 miles from Sanjāri or 12 miles from Bālod, the tahsīl headquarters. It is bounded on the north and east by the *khālsa* villages, on the south by the Kānker Feudatory State, and on the west by the Sanjāri pargana of the Sanjāri tahsīl and the Pānabāras zamīndāri. Its area is 280 square miles of which 37 are covered with forest. The *khālsa* villages of Dallī Pattī are situated in the middle of the estate and further south, near Dondī Khās, another *khālsa* village, Khairwāhi, is surrounded by zamīndāri villages. A range of hills intersects the estate from

Natural features.

north to south. The northern portion consists of a low tableland about 200 feet above the surrounding country, but the flat-topped characteristics of this part of the range change further south, where the hills run up into peaks and ridges varying in height from 300 to 500 feet above the level of the plain country. This range divides the estate into three distinct natural subdivisions, the northern, western and southern. The northern, consisting partly of undulating country and partly of open level plains, is drained by the Jagorā river which rises in the hills skirting the Dallī villages. The western tract consists of the valley of the Kharkharā, a river which has its source in the hills near Angāra. The southern and Dondī subdivision is situated within the watershed of the Tandulā river, which rises a few miles beyond the southern border in Kānker. The Tandulā river forms a portion of the eastern boundary of the estate, and the Kharkharā of the western. The best villages of the estate are situated to the north in the neighbourhood of Lohāra Khās. Next in importance are the villages of the Dondī plain to the south and near Bhainsbod in the northern subdivision. The poorest villages are met with in the valley of the Kharkharā and in the vicinity of the hills. Apart from the main range, numerous low hills occur in village areas throughout the group. In addition to 37 square miles of *zamīndāri* forest, the village area contains 74 square miles of hills and tree forest, and 56 square miles of scrub jungle and grass. *Harrā* and teak trees abound in the village areas, the former chiefly in the Dondī subdivision and the latter in the northern and western tracts described above, except in the open country near Lohāra. The forests on the slopes of the hills consist of miscellaneous timber trees and scrub, but in the part bordering Malkasā and Angāra to the south scrub jungle gives place to

bamboos. The hills, extending in a south-westerly direction from the Dallī Pass, contain large quantities of iron-ore—more than 40 smelting furnaces were at work prior to 1896, but the Agarias or iron-ore smelters were among the first to feel the effects of the crop failure, and most of them emigrated to Kānker and Bastar. Very few furnaces are at work at present. Kopederā contains valuable deposits of iron.

History.

Dondī-Lohāra was originally in the possession of one Katangā Gond who was unable to manage it. In the neighbouring Kānker State was employed one Dalsai, a Rāj-Gond, as Dīwān, who for his services was granted the pargana of Lohtur. Dalsai, seeing Dondī-Lohāra about to be abandoned, obtained by payment of arrears of revenue a grant of it from the Ratanpur Rājā. The date of the grant is about A.D. 1538. The genealogy of Dalsai's family is reported to be as follows :—

Dalsai
|
Bhūprāja
|
Bikramsai
|
Anandrai
|
Narsingh
|
Ajabsingh
|
Rahipālsingh
|
Jaipālsingh
|
Lāl Fatehsingh (the present zamīndār).

The present zamīndār has been in possession of the estate for the last 17 years. The estate passes by primogeniture. The present zamīndār is a Darbāri

and exempt under the Arms Act. He is about 32 years of age, knows Hindī; and has four wives but no issue. He lives at Dondī, 24 miles distant from Lohāra on the Rāj-Nāndgaon-Antāgarh road, but his chief place of residence is Lohāra, 12 miles distant from Bālod. A metalled road runs from Bālod to Lohāra. The zamīndār is a farmer of Excise which is leased out to him annually. The zamīndāri contains 147 villages, 13 of which are uninhabited, 24 are held by protected *thekādārs*, 81 by ordinary *thekādārs*, 16 by assignees of the zamīndār, and 13 by the zamīndār himself. The lessees are mostly Gonds and Halbās. The bulk of the tenants are Halbās, Gonds, Telis, Kalārs and Marārs.

Population.

In 1901 the population was 24,747 persons, having decreased by about 26 per cent. during the previous decade. The density is 88 persons per square mile as against the District figure of 146; this zamīndāri is more thickly populated than the Pānabāras, Korācha, and Aundhī zamīndāris. The density of the combined zamīndāris of the tahsīl is 67 persons per square mile. The largest villages in the estate are Dondī, with a population of 1162, and Lohāra with one of 1354.

Agriculture.

Of the total area, 65,733 acres or 38 per cent. are occupied for cultivation, the cropped area being 45,295 acres. The class of soil in the northern or Lohāra subdivision is *dorsā* of good quality. In the western and southern tracts *matāsi* and *bhāta* prevail. A group of five or six villages to the north-east of Lohāra consists of *kanhār* land. The *matāsi* soil of the Dondī plain to the south is valued for its productiveness, but elsewhere in the southern and western tracts it can be best described as a mixture of *matāsi* and *retāri*, as it generally contains particles of coarse sand and is gritty to the touch, while that of the Dondī plain

is soft. The *dorsā* soil, met with near Kusumkasā and Bhainsbod in the northern subdivision, is mixed with loose stones in many localities. The principal crops grown in the estate in 1906-07 were rice (15,705 acres), kodon-kutkī (18,433 acres), urad-mūng (5778 acres), linseed (3585 acres), gram (1648 acres) and wheat (1162 acres). The double-cropped area was 8220 acres.

Land Revenue.

The revenue demand was fixed in A.D. 1755 at Rs. 500. In A.D. 1819 it was raised to Rs. 660, which figure, in Government currency, amounted to Rs. 572-10-5. The *takolī* at Mr. Hewitt's settlement of 1866-68 was increased to Rs. 1500 on an income of Rs. 8500. At Mr. Carey's summary settlement of 1888-89 the gross income of the estate from land and forest was estimated at Rs. 22,390, on which a *takolī* of Rs. 5300 including cost of police was fixed. A sum of Rs. 1700 was assessed as cesses. The gross income at Mr. Scott's settlement of 1901-02 was estimated at Rs. 26,193, on which a *takolī* of Rs. 6800 was sanctioned with an amount of Rs. 2303 on account of cesses. The cesses have however since been reduced to Rs. 937-12 owing to the abolition of the additional rate and patwāri cess.

Miscellaneous.

The Rāj-Nāndgaon-Antāgarh road, aligned in 1896-97 and constructed in 1899-1900, runs through the estate from north to south. Banjārās, trading in *harrā* and grain between Kānker and Nāndgaon, generally make use of this route. *Harrā* is collected at Dondī and conveyed thence to Lohāra for export. All licenses are issued from the zamīndār's Forest office at Lohāra for felling the teak and other timber and for forest produce. There is a branch post-office, a police Station-house and a primary school managed by the zamīndār at Dondī, while at Lohāra there is a branch post-office, police Station-house and a

District Council primary school. A primary school has recently been opened at Kusumkasā by the District Council. Weekly markets are held at Dondī on Saturdays, at Lohāra on Mondays, and at Kusumkasā on Fridays. There is a Pentecost Mission Band at Baterā about a mile from Dondī-Lohāra which supports an orphanage school there.

Drug Tahsīl.— The central tahsīl of the new Drug District, which was formed in 1906. It lies between 21° 33′ and 20° 51′ N. and 81° 37′ and 81° 6′ E. The area of the tahsīl when it formed part of the Raipur District was 1911 square miles. In arranging the new Drug District, an area of 614 square miles contained in six zamīndāri estates was transferred to the Bemetarā tahsīl and another area of 373 square miles to the Sanjāri tahsīl, leaving the revised area of the Drug tahsīl at 924 square miles. But on the 1st October 1907 the Gundardehī zamīndāri with an area of 83 square miles and 35 *khālsa* villages with an area of 57 square miles were received from Sanjāri, and the revised area of the Drug tahsīl thus became 1064 square miles or 23 per cent. of that of the District. The tahsīl is bounded on the north by the Bemetarā tahsīl, on the east by the Raipur District, on the south by the Sanjāri tahsīl and on the west by the Khairāgarh and the Nāndgaon Feudatory States. The river Seonāth flows through the tahsīl and the Khārun forms the north-eastern boundary. The country is covered with *babūl* trees, and interspersed with mango groves. The tahsīl has no Government forest, and consists of an open plain of fertile black soil alternating with sandy soil and gravel, and mainly devoted to the cultivation of rice. The Tandulā meets the Seonāth at Changorī, while the other two streams of importance, the

Description.

and Nandkathī respectively. The Great Eastern Road crosses the centre of the tahsīl, passing through Drug and Bhilai. This has always been the main channel for export and import into the Raipur District. The Bengal-Nāgpur Railway was opened to Rāj-Nāndgaon in 1883 and to Raipur in 1889. It practically follows the line of the Great Eastern Road between these places. The principal feeder roads run from Drug to Bemetarā in the north and Drug to Bālod in the south.

Population.

In 1891 the population of the tahsīl was 262,489 but in 1901 it fell to 219,814, or a decrease of 15 per cent., the fall being due to bad harvests during the decade. The tahsīl contains 612 villages of which only 46 are uninhabited. The density of population is 209 per square mile, Drug being much more thickly populated than Bemetarā or Sanjāri, where the density is 154 and 106 persons respectively. The following 12 villages had a population of between 1000 and 2000 persons in 1901: Arjundā (1152), Vināyakpur (1070), Kesrā (1292), Nagpurā (1269), Nikum (1142), Nandkathī (1324), Nawāgaon (1128), Pātan (1851), Thānod (1266), Wateband (1872), Kandul (1041) and Gundardehī (1529), while the village of Dhamdā and the town of Drug, the headquarters of the District, had in 1901 a population of 2647 and 4002 respectively.

Agriculture.

The soil of the Drug tahsīl is generally gravelly, but there is a certain amount of black soil and it is better than that of the Sanjāri tahsīl. The black soil belt begins to the north of the Seonāth river and extends to Mungelī. In the embanked rice fields of *kanhār* and *dorsā* soils double crops are sown. The tahsīl does not contain any Government forests, and out of its total area in 1907-08 163 square miles

and grass in both the mālguzāri and zamīndāri area. Of the village area of 1076 square miles including zamīndāris, a proportion of 79 per cent. was occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area was 511,965 acres and the gross cropped area 442,901, of which 46,977 acres or 11 per cent. were double-cropped. The principal statistics of cropping during the years 1905-06, 1906-07 and 1907-08 are given in the annexed statement. The main crop of the tahsīl is rice, which covers 51 per cent. of the total cropped area. A large area is also sown with kodon-kutkī, urad, mūng and *moth*, wheat and tūr, the percentages of which come to 22, 7, 7 and 3 respectively. The irrigated area in 1907-08 was 38,363 acres against 2056 acres in 1906-07. The spring crops such as linseed, *lākhorī*, urad, mūng, masūr, gram and *batrā* (peas) are grown as after-crops in the damp rice fields. They are sown in September after Dasahra and before Diwāli by the *uterā* method, which consists in scattering the seed in the standing rice between 15 and 30 days before the crop is cut. They are reaped in the month of February. Gram alone is occasionally sown in the rice fields after they have been ploughed up. *Lākhorī* can be sown when there are 3 inches of water in the fields, urad and mūng when there are one or two inches, while linseed and gram require nothing more than a damp field. In any case the water is let out of the field three or four days after the crop is sown. The produce of sugarcane, tobacco and cotton is insignificant.

Land Revenue.

In 1907-08 the land-revenue demand of the *khālsa* villages of the tahsīl was Rs. 1,68,090 and for cesses the demand was Rs. 9377. The average rent rate per acre for the *khālsa* villages of the tahsīl was As. 6-10, and the average revenue rate As. 5-4. The *takolī* payable by the zamīndāri villages of the tahsīl was Rs. 6700 on an average of

Statistics of Cropping.

YEAR.		Rice.	Wheat.	Kodon-kutkī.	Linseed.	Gram.	Cotton.	Til.	Arhar.	Tiurā-lākh.	Masūr.	Urad, mūng and moth.	Peas.	Sugarcane.	Tobacco.	Double-cropped area.	Total cropped area (a).	Irrigated.	REMARKS.
5-06	Khālsa ..	178,229	54,818	96,051	29,888	5730	875	1839	128	16,707	4946	46,661	11,489	65	93	79,794	459,078	4486	
	Zamīndāris	124	275	261	42	36	4	..	1	..	5	59	14	..	2	71	857	..	
	Total ..	178,353	55,093	96,312	29,930	5766	879	1839	129	16,707	4951	46,720	11,503	65	95	79,865	459,935	4486	
6-07	Khālsa ..	198,170	58,401	78,502	43,564	5576	323	2585	18,110	17,963	5626	63,141	13,793	44	193	98,743	519,012	2056	
	Zamīndāris	20,936	2830	6039	4827	492	11	183	1388	1270	352	11,091	1255	6	30	13,234	51,984	..	
	Total ..	219 106	61,231	84,541	48,391	6068	334	2768	19,498	19,233	5978	74.232	15,048	50	223	111,977	570,996	2056	
7-08	Khālsa ..	204,551	32,220	90,121	5186	4057	284	3508	11,178	9484	1879	28,552	4048	25	108	42,567	406 622	35,018	
	Zamīndāris	21,686	413	8083	322	177	68	205	56	615	49	3542	137	11	16	4410	36,279	3345	
	Total ..	226,237	32,633	98,204	5508	4234	352	3713	11,234	10,099	1928	32,094	4185	36	124	46,977	442,901	38,363	
centage of area nder each crop on ne total cropped rea in 1907-08 ..		51	7	22	1·25	1	·07	1	2·5	2	·43	7	1	..	..	11	..	..	

(a) Includes double-cropped area.

As. 2-5 per acre, and the demand for cesses was Rs. 964, according to Mr. Scott's settlement.

Miscellaneous.

The tahsīl is divided into seven Revenue Inspectors' circles, with headquarters at Bori, Bhilai, Kuthrel, Nandkathī, Pāndher, Karelā and Gundardehī and 140 patwāris' circles. It contains 6 police Station-houses at Drug, Dhamdā, Bhilai, Pātan, Ranchirai and Arjundā.

Drug Town (Durga, a fort).—The headquarters town of the District, situated in 21° 1′ N. and 81° 17′ E. on the Bengal-Nāgpur Railway, 149 miles from Nāgpur, 25 miles from Raipur, 536 miles from Calcutta, and 685 miles from Bombay. The town stands on the Great Eastern Road from Nāgpur to Raipur and is two miles from the Seonāth river. Its area is 1991 acres, of which 559 are Government land, and the population was 4002 persons in 1901 as against 4151 in 1891. The town appears to have been founded about the tenth century by one Jagapāl, who came from Badhal Desh in Mirzāpur and became Officer of the Treasury of the Rājā of Ratanpur. Ratan Deo, the Rājā, being pleased with his management, gave him Drug with 700 villages as a reward for his good service. In an inscription found in Drug the name of the place is given as Shiva Durg, which may mean the fort on the Sheo, or Seonāth river. It is this Jagapāl who is said to have placed the Rājivalochan image in Rājim, and to have visited it daily though it was 30 miles distant. The town contains the ruins of a mud fort said to be of great antiquity, which the Marāthās made the basis of their operations in 1741, when they overran Chhattīsgarh. Besides occupying the fort they formed an entrenched camp on the high ground on which the town stands, whence a bird's-eye view of the surrounding country can be had. The fort is now in ruins. It was surrounded by a moat traces of which



Bemrose, Collo., Derby

SIDE-VIEW OF DRUG TANK.

are visible; banks have been thrown across it in many places and small tanks formed. A small headless figure of Buddha and numerous stone foot-stools have been found here. These stools are about 12 inches long and 6 inches high with four small feet, and are often found among Buddhist relics. A temple of Hanumān is situated inside the fort. The town has one large tank known as Sarna-Bāndha and several small ones which are used for irrigating the betel-vine gardens. The Sarna-Bāndha is said to have been built by nine lakhs of Uriyās in a single night and the mound near the railway, known as the Tuknā Jharoni, is said to have been made by the waste earth from their baskets.

A small brass-working industry is carried on here, and vessels of the white bell-metal known as *phulkāns* are also made. There is also a small weaving industry. The proprietors of Drug are two Agarwāl Baniās who own six other villages. Markets are held on Wednesdays and Saturdays. An English middle school was opened in 1906 and had 57 pupils in the following year. There is also a Government girls' school, a dispensary with accommodation for 15 indoor patients, a police hospital, a veterinary dispensary and a public garden. The District Office building, which was constructed at a cost of about Rs. 2 lakhs after the formation of the District, is a fine and imposing building. It accommodates all the chief offices of the District administration. There is no jail here. A magisterial lock-up is maintained for the undertrial prisoners, convicted persons being sent to the Central Jail, Raipur. The Raipur Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church has opened a branch station here.

The town was made a notified area under the Municipal Act in 1906. The committee consists of six members all nominated. The income is raised by a *haisiyat* or income tax, a latrine cess and market dues, and amounted

to Rs. 8484 in 1907-08, including a Provincial contribution of Rs. 500. A number of wells, public latrines, a large drain and the Chitnavis road from the railway station to the town were constructed from the Government grant. The notified area includes parts of the villages of Kasardi, Titurdīh and Urlā. The bulk of the cultivated land of Drug is in possession of the mālguzārs.

Natural features.

Gandai Zamīndāri.—Is situated in the Bemetarā tahsīl, bounded on the north by the Sahaspur-Lohāra and Barbaspur zamīndāris, and detached blocks of the Khairāgarh and Chhuikhadān Feudatory States, on the east by Chhuikhadān and the Parporī zamīndāri, on the south by Chhuikhadān and the Thākurtolā zamīndāri, and on the west by the Bālāghāt District. Its area is about 166 square miles, 46 of which are included in forest. It comprised 86 villages at Mr. Carey's settlement of 1888-1889, but 5 are now waste land. The eastern portion of the estate consists of open and very fertile country of good soil, not unlike the adjacent tracts of Chhuikhadān and Parporī. But westwards from Gandai Khās, the estate is hilly. A spur from the main range subdivides the low country into two distinct tracts, one rich and the other poor, lying east and west respectively of this spur, and proceeding further westwards, there comes the climb up the *ghāts* into country which, except for a strip on the borders of Bālāghāt, is very wild and hilly. This strip of country, drained by the Banjar river, formerly contained some flourishing villages, but the recent famines have caused a marked deterioration. A great deal of culturable land has lapsed into waste, and villages have been partially deserted. Villages situated immediately below the *ghāts* have shared the same fate. The Surhī river drains the lowland country. It forces its way through a narrow gap in the spur running across the

centre of the estate. The class of soil in the eastern tract is good rich *dorsā*, but in the west it is *matāsi* or *bhāta* with occasional small patches of *dorsā*. The soil of some of the upland villages is good. Twenty villages are situated above the *ghāts* and 63 below. The jungly villages produce every kind of crop, especially kodon and kutkī. The soil of the villages in the valleys is well suited both for *kharīf* and *rabi* crops. The villages in the open parts of the zamīndāri produce more *rabi* than *kharīf*. The Banjar river has its source in mauzā Banjarpur of this zamīndāri and forms its western boundary separating it from the Bījāgarh zamīndāri of the Bālāghāt District.

History.

The Gandai zamīndāri is said to have originated in a grant made by the Garhā Mandlā dynasty about 600 years ago to one Lingādarbey, a Dhur Gond and a relative of the ruling Rājā. The title of Rājā was given to the zamīndār by his neighbours. A subsequent zamīndār, Mukhī Thākur, divided the estate among his three sons and in 1828 this partition was confirmed, the two separate zamīndārs of Silheti and Barbaspur being recognised. The family tree starting from Mukhī Thākur is given below:—

Mukhī Thākur.

Rājā Gumānsingh of Gandai. | Hayātsingh of Silheti. | Ajītsingh of Barbaspur.

Rājā Bakhatsingh.

Rājā Tarwarsingh.

Randhīrsingh.

Himāchalsingh (dead). | Udwatsingh (the present zamīndār).

In the time of Rājā Bakhat Singh the zamīndāri was invaded by the Bhonslas on account of non-payment of *takolī* and the Rājā was forced to take refuge in the Kawardhā State. Another invasion by the Rājā of Khairāgarh was repelled by the mother of Rājā Tarwar Singh. On the death of Tarwar Singh his son Randhīr Singh was passed by on the ground that he was not the son of a legitimate wife, and the estate was left with the widow of Tarwar Singh. But the son of Randhīr Singh the present zamīndār Lāl Udwat Singh obtained possession of the estate by a civil suit. The Kholwā estate consisting of 21 villages has been lost to the zamīndāri and has passed into the possession of the Rājā of Khairāgarh by the ceremony called *suā nachai neg*. This is a ceremony at Diwāli at which women dance round the image of a parrot. Owing to the indebtedness of the zamīndār to the extent of about a lakh of rupees, the estate was taken under the management of the Court of Wards six years ago. The unpaid debts now amount to about Rs. 20,904 only. The Court of Wards has improved communications in the jungly and hilly tracts of the zamīndāri and has sunk wells for the supply of water where necessary. The present zamīndār Lāl Udwat Singh is 45 years old, knows Hindī well and is an intelligent man. He resides at Pandaria 1½ miles from Gandai, is a Darbāri and Khās-mulākāti and he and his 35 retainers are exempt from the operation of the Arms Act. The zamīndāri contains 88 villages of which 13 are uninhabited. Five villages have entirely lapsed into waste, 24 are managed directly, two are held by inferior proprietors, 6 by *muāfidārs* and 45 by *thekādārs*. Protected status has been conferred on nine *thekādārs*. *Thekādārs* are principally Gonds, Telis, Chhattrīs and Lodhīs, while the bulk of the tenants are Gonds, Telis, Marārs and Chamārs

The famines of 1897 and 1900 seriously affected

Gandai, resulting in a decrease of 34 per cent. in the number of inhabitants. The census returns of 1901 show a population of 14,606 against 22,124 in 1891 and 17,591 at the settlement of 1866-68, that is to say, the population is less now than it was 35 years ago. The density is 88 persons per square mile as against 146 for the District and 79 for the zamīndāris. The largest village is Pandaria with 1336 persons; it has a post office. Gandai has only 403 persons, but contains a school and police Station-house. The principal castes of inhabitants are Gonds, Telis, Marārs and Lodhīs, the latter residing chiefly in the fertile tract bordering on Parporī zamīndāri and Chhuikhadān State.

Population.

Of the total area, 41,311 acres or 60 per cent. are occupied for cultivation, the cropped area being 31,564 acres. Kodon sown in both poor and rich soils is the principal crop. Next in importance are rice and wheat. In 1906-07 kodon-kutkī covered an area of 17,427 acres, wheat 4260 acres and rice 4848 acres. Irrigation is very defective in the estate for there are comparatively few tanks.

Agriculture.

The revenue demand on the whole of the original Gandai zamīndāri was at first Rs. 2500. During the time of Raghuji II, it stood for two years at the high figure of Rs. 3000, but it was again reduced to Rs. 2500. When the zamīndāri was partitioned, the *takolī* which in that year amounted to Rs. 2736-0-6 was apportioned among its three sections as follows:—Gandai Rs. 948-8-6, Silheti Rs. 700, Barbaspur Rs. 1087-0-8. And the above quota for Gandai was afterwards commuted to Government currency Rs. 818-11-4. At Mr. Hewitt's settlement of 1866-68 the assets were estimated at Rs. 15,600 and a revenue of Rs. 4000 was fixed. At Mr. Carey's summary settlement

Land Revenue.

of 1888-89 a gross income of Rs. 19,679 was estimated and the *takolī* was sanctioned at Rs. 6655 including cost of police. The cesses were fixed at Rs. 1461. At Mr. Scott's settlement of 1901-02 the gross income was estimated at Rs. 19,757, but the Government demand sanctioned as *takolī* remained the same, *i.e.*, Rs. 6655. The amount of cesses was however revised and fixed at Rs. 1674. The cesses have since been reduced to Rs. 682, owing to the abolition of the additional rate and patwāri cess. The average rent-rate falls at R. 0-7-11 per acre as compared with R. 0-9-2 the figure at the first regular settlement of 1868.

Miscellaneous.

The zamīndāri has an area of 46 square miles under forest, the principal trees being teak, *bīja*, *sāja*, *harrā* and bamboo. Wheat, gram, linseed and til with timber and *harrā* from the forests are exported. The weekly market held on Sundays at Gandai Khās is the most important cattle market in the District; cattle in large numbers being brought from July to October each year from Lālbarrā and Wāraseonī in Bālāghāt, Garhākotā in Saugor, and from Mandlā.

Registration fees are charged on the sale of cattle at 1 anna per head, and owners pay grazing dues at the rate of 6 pies per buffalo and 3 pies for a cow or bullock. In 1906-07, 9013 head of cattle were sold at this market and Rs. 563 were realised from registration fees. Duty is also paid on iron brought for sale. A number of Baniās and Cutchis have settled in Pandaria near Gandai, where the zamīndār resides, and taken together, these two villages form the most important centre of trade in the northern zamīndāris. Near the boundary of the Chhuikhadān Feudatory State, there is a hot-water spring called the Nerbudda Kund in mauzā Chaknar of this zamīndāri. Aṇ annual fair which was held here till 30

years ago, was revived in 1907. The spring is a picturesque one, is held sacred by the Hindus, and on its bank is a temple of Devī. An annual cattle fair and grain exhibition were started in 1907 by Mr. S. M. Chitnavis the Deputy Commissioner at Gandai and last from 1st to 16th January. Weekly markets are also held at Salhewāra and Achānakpur on Mondays and Thursdays respectively. Gandai is 42 miles from Drug and 44 miles from Rāj-Nāndgaon. The Dongargarh-Pandaria road runs through the group from south to north, and a branch road to Dhamdā diverges from it at Gandai Khās.

Gandai Village.—The headquarters village of the Gandai zamīndāri, situated about 42 miles north-west of Drug along a gravelled road through Dhamdā. The population is only 400 persons. The village lies just below the Sātpurā Hills, and is the headquarters of the Court of Wards. The zamīndār lives in the large village of Pandaria, about 1½ miles from Gandai. At Gandai is held the only important fair in the Drug District as well as the largest weekly cattle market. The village has a police Station-house, a primary school, an Inspection bungalow and a dispensary.

Gundardehi Zamīndāri.—Situated in the south of Drug, in the Drug tahsīl. It is surrounded by *khālsa* villages. Its area is about 83 square miles, and it consists of a fine open plain of rich soil almost fully cultivated. There is no forest. The Tandulā river, a tributary of the Seonāth, runs through the centre of the estate from south to north. Minor streams of importance are the Pandrā, Sukhā and Cheria, which drain the eastern tract, and the Samrā and Bandhā to the west. Much of the land on the banks of the Tandulā has deteriorated on account of deposits of sand left by the river when in flood. '*Bhāta* ridges,' the characteristic feature of a great part of Drug tahsīl,

Natural features.

are not numerous. The best villages are situated to the north on either bank of the Tandulā river. Irrigation is in its infancy. Each village contains one or more tanks, but the water is generally used for drinking purposes only. Rs. 87,500 were spent in tank construction during the famine of 1899-1900, old tanks being repaired and new ones excavated.

History.

An ancestor of the present zamīndār, Mākhansingh Thākur of the Kawar tribe, helped to repel an invasion of the Rājā of Bastar in A.D. 1525 ; and in reward was granted by the ruler of Ratanpur the estate of Gundardehi consisting of 48 villages in jāgīr together with the title of Rai. Subsequently the Bālod pargana was added to the grant and Mākhansingh took up his residence there. He again won distinction by suppression of certain robber bands, and in 1540 he was further enriched by the grant of the 4 tāluks of Rajoli, Armori, Arjundā and Guredā, each consisting of 12 villages. Mākhansingh used to pay one *ashrafī* as *takolī*. This settlement continued till the time of Bhīkamrai Dīwān, the descendant of Mākhansingh, when the Haihayavansī dynasty came to an end, and the Marāthā rule of Bāla Bimbāji Bhonsla was established. He took possession of the four tāluks which had been bestowed on Mākhansingh, and fixed four *ashrafīs* as *takolī*. This settlement continued till the time of Raghujī Bhonsla when Mr. Agnew came to Raipur and took away 28 villages from this zamīndāri and fixed Rs. 5020 (Nāgpuri) as *takolī*. Thus only 55 villages remained in the estate. Thākur Thānsingh, the late zamīndār, died on the 31st December 1905. He was succeeded by his grandson Nihālsingh on account of whose minority the estate was taken under the management of the Court of Wards. Nihālsingh is 18 years old and has been educated at the Rājkumār College, Raipur.

He has two younger brothers by name Ganeshsingh and Kanwalsingh, who are being educated at the same College. The late zamīndār was a Darbāri and exempt from the operation of the Arms Act. He was also an Honorary Magistrate. Three male relatives of the family, Dadhiarsingh *alias* Ganjhā Dīwān, Hemsingh and Shyāmsingh receive allowances, the first two getting Rs. 240 a year for their maintenance, while the last has been given a village as *muāfi*. Two female relatives of the family are maintained at the expense of the estate, one getting Rs. 300 per annum and the other 30 acres of land rent-free. The zamīndār resides at Gundardehī. The zamīndāri contains 55 villages which are all inhabited, of which two are held by inferior proprietors, three are revenue-free, having been assigned for the maintenance of temples or of the zamīndār's relatives, nine are under direct management and 41 are leased to *thekādārs*, of whom 28 received a protected status in 1888-89. The lessees are mostly Kurmīs and Telis. The bulk of the tenants are Telis, Chamārs and Kurmīs. The zamīndār also owns two *khālsa* villages in mālguzāri right.

Population.

In 1901 the population was 19,719 persons, having decreased by 14 per cent. during the previous decade. The density is 213 persons per square mile as against the District figure of 146. It is the second most thickly populated tract amongst the zamīndāris of the District, Parporī having a density of 248 per square mile. The largest villages are Gundardehī Khās with 1529 inhabitants, and Kandūl with 1041.

Agriculture.

Of the total area, 43,074 acres or 81 per cent. are occupied for cultivation, the cropped area being 38,011 acres in 1906-07. The soil is rich. *Kanhār* and *dorsā I* soils cover 65 per

cent. of the occupied area, while 19 per cent. is classified as *matāsi*, 13 per cent. as *dorsā II*, and 3 per cent. as *patpar-kachhār* and *bhāta*. The soil of the zamīndāri is noted for its natural fertility. The principal crops grown in the estate in 1906-07 were rice (20,817 acres), urad-mūng (10,919 acres), kodon-kutkī (7166 acres), linseed (4872 acres), and wheat (2333 acres). Kodon mixed with *arhar* is usually sown in good soil in rotation with linseed, wheat, and gram. Sixty per cent. of the rice area is suited for double-cropping (*uterā*), the area so treated being 13,164 acres in 1906-07. Many of the villages along the banks of the Tandulā river are noted for the garden produce consisting of vegetables and guavas. The guava orchards lie a short distance away from the river bank. Large quantities of the latter fruit are exported to Raipur in favourable seasons.

Land Revenue.

The land-revenue demand was originally Rs. 80, but in A.D. 1819 it was raised to Rs. 5020 by the Marāthā government. It was reduced by the British Government to Rs. 4290 in A.D. 1863 on the request of Chainsingh zamīndār. At Mr. Hewitt's settlement of 1866-68 the income was estimated at Rs. 13,000 on which a *takolī* of Rs. 4290 was retained. At Mr. Carey's summary settlement of 1888-89 the gross income of the estate was estimated at Rs. 22,775, on which a *takolī* of Rs. 6200, including cost of police, was fixed. Rs. 1672 was also assessed as cesses on the zamīndār's income. At Mr. Scott's settlement of 1900-1901 a gross income of Rs. 23,887 was estimated, on which a *takolī* of Rs. 6700 was sanctioned, and cesses of Rs. 2366 were assessed. The cesses have since been reduced to Rs. 964-2 owing to the abolition of the additional rate and patwāri cess. The rent-rate per acre, including the valuation of home farm, works out at As. 11-4 as compared with the all-round tenant rate of As. 11-1.

The revenue rate for cultivated area has increased from As. 5-6 in 1868 to As. 6-6.

Miscellaneous.

The greater portion of the export and import trade of the estate is carried on with Rāj-Nāndgaon, which is 23 miles from Gundardehī. The railway station of Drug though nearer Gundardehī than that of Rāj-Nāndgaon, receives but a small proportion of the export traffic. The estate is connected both with Rāj-Nāndgaon and Drug by good metalled roads. A primary school at Gundardehī is maintained; a branch post office is also located there. Gunderdehī is 17 miles from Drug. A market is held at Gundardehī on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Gurur.—A village in the Sanjāri tahsīl, about 13 miles from Bālod on the road to Dhamtarī, with a population of 700 persons. Near the village are the remains of some temples of the mediæval Brahmanic style, and lying in a field near one of them is a block of stone containing an inscription. This may be referred to the reign of the King Vāghrāj of Kānker, who belonged to the twelfth or thirteenth century. There is also a large image of Ganesh about 7 feet high. The village has a branch post office, a primary school, a police Station-house, and an Inspection bungalow.

Kharun River.—The most important river in the District after the Seonāth. It has its source in a tank in the village of Petichua in the Sanjāri tahsīl whence it enters the Raipur District. It passes about four miles west of Raipur, being crossed by the railway at Kumhāri, and then forms the boundary between Raipur and Drug for some distance until it joins the Seonāth at Jamghāt in the Bemetarā tahsīl. Near its junction is a temple of Somnāth where an annual fair is held. The water-supply of Raipur town is obtained from the Khārun. The total length of the river is 75 miles and its bed is generally rocky.

Khujjī Zamīndāri.—A small zamīndāri situated in the Sanjāri tahsīl. It is bounded on the north and west by the Nāndgaon Feudatory State and the zamīndāri of Ambāgarh Chaukī, from the former of which it is divided by the Seonāth river and from the latter by the Dongarnadī. On the east and south it touches the *khālsa* villages, the Motināla forming portion of the boundary. It is about 8 miles in width in the centre, but to the north and south it converges to a width of less than half a mile at each extremity. The northern portion is open with fairly good black soil, but the rest is hilly and covered for the most part with scrub forest, intersected by cultivated clearings in the valleys and open plains. The estate lies within fairly easy reach of the Bengal-Nāgpur Railway, to which it is joined by good roads. It was under the management of the Court of Wards at Mr. Carey's settlement. The area of the estate is about 63 square miles, and it includes about 2 square miles under forest. It contains 33 villages which are all inhabited. Low detached hills run through the estate from south to north, and these form the watershed between the valley of the Seonāth on the west and that of the Motināla to the east. The country is drained by numerous small streams. Few tanks were in existence at the settlement of 1866-68, but fair progress was made in their construction while the estate was under the Court of Wards management. During the famine of 1899-1900 a number of new tanks were excavated at Government expense as relief works, and most of the large ones were enlarged or repaired. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 46,728. Irrigation tanks are of great utility in this estate, as it appears to be particularly subject to drought.

Natural features.

The estate has, for about 150 years, been in the

possession of a Muhammadan family which has always maintained a high character in these parts. An ancestor of the family, Sher Khān Bahādur, is said to have been granted the estate by a Gond Rājā as a reward for his services in repelling an invasion of Raghujī Bhonsla, Rājā of Nāgpur. The present zamīndār is Niāz-ud-dīn Khān, who obtained it from his grandmother. He is about 36 years of age, and was educated at the Rājkumār College, Jubbulpore, and in England. He is an Honorary Magistrate of the third class, but does not exercise the powers. He is a Darbāri and is exempt from the operation of the Arms Act. He has a house at Khujjī built by the Court of Wards, but usually lives with his father on the latter's estate at Bahelā in the Bālāghāt District. Khujjī is 32 miles from Bālod and 35 miles from Drug. Three villages are held by inferior proprietors, twenty-four by *thekādārs*, two by *muāfidārs*, and four are under the zamīndār's direct management. Out of 24 villages held by *thekādārs*, ten were granted protected status in 1888-89. All the villages of the estate are said to have been under the direct management of the zamīndār at Mr. Carey's settlement of 1888-89, with the exception of four held by inferior proprietors. The majority of the tenants are Telis, Halbās and Gonds, while the *thekādārs* belong to various castes.

History.

At the settlement of 1866-68 this estate was said to contain 9022 inhabitants. By 1891 the population had risen to 10,393, but the census returns of 1901 show a considerable decrease to 7027 or 32·4 per cent. during the previous decade. The decrease occurred mainly in 1896-97 when the failure of the crops resulted in wholesale emigration to Kānker. The density is 112 persons per square mile as against the District figure of 146. There is no large village in

Population.

the estate except that of Khujjī, the population of which was 743 persons in 1901.

Agriculture.

Of the total area, 18,457 acres or 46 per cent. are occupied for cultivation, the cropped area being 13,533 acres. *Kanhār* soil, which occupies 7 per cent. of the total occupied area, is met with chiefly in the valley of the Seonāth and the northern villages. *Dorsā I* and *matāsi* are found in fairly equal proportions, the former occupying 37 per cent. and the latter 38 per cent. of the area. *Matāsi* is the prevailing soil in the central and southern, and *dorsā I* in the northern villages; 7 per cent. of the occupied area contains *dorsā* of poor quality, and 10 per cent. *bhāta*. Rice (7285 acres), kodon-kutkī (3265 acres), urad-mūng (2168 acres), linseed (1598 acres), and lākh-tiurā (996 acres), were the principal crops in 1906-07. The double-cropped area was 3990 acres.

Land Revenue.

The revenue demand was originally only Rs. 60, but in the time of Raghujī II, Rājā of Nāgpur, it was suddenly raised to Rs. 1500, which amounted to Rs. 1358-15-7 in Government currency. It was slightly increased to Rs. 1370 at Mr. Hewitt's settlement of 1866-68, when the income was estimated at Rs. 5000. At Mr. Carey's settlement the gross revenue was estimated at Rs. 8256, on which a *kāmil-jamā* of Rs. 6051 was fixed, and a *takolī* of Rs. 2750 including the cost of the police was sanctioned. Rs. 695 were fixed as cesses on the zamīndār's income. At Mr. Scott's settlement of 1901-02 the gross income was estimated at Rs. 8726, on which a *takolī* of Rs. 2750 was sanctioned and Rs. 811 were fixed as cesses. The cesses have, however, since been reduced to Rs. 330-8 owing to the abolition of the additional rate and patwāri cess. The revenue rate of the cultivated area was As. 5-5 at the last settlement, the rent-rate being As. 8-3 per acre.

Miscellaneous.

Surplus produce is generally conveyed to the Rāj-Nāndgaon market. There is no metalled road within the estate, but the one leading from Rāj-Nāndgaon to Chaukī runs within a few miles of the northern border. A fair weather track connects Khujjī Khās with Ambāgarh Chaukī while other cart-tracks run from village to village. The estate does not occupy a disadvantageous position for the disposal of its surplus produce, as the Bengal-Nāgpur Railway line is but two days' journey from its southern extremity. A primary (District Council) school and a branch post office are maintained at Khujjī.

Natural features.

Korācha Zamīndāri.—A fairly large but very wild and sparsely populated zamīndāri. It is situated on the south-western highlands, and covers an area of 204 square miles, of which 153 square miles consist of unsurveyed hill and forest. It is bounded on the north by the Pānabāras zamīndāri, on the east and south by the Kānker State, on the south-west by the Aundhī zamīndāri, and on the west by the Chānda District. The Kotri river flows in the eastern corner of the estate. The zamīndāri is very hilly and picturesque, and many of the heights chiefly granite and gneiss rise grandly above the plain. The southern half of the estate is practically all jungle with numerous isolated hills. This portion contains a number of very small unsurveyed villages scattered through it. Of the northern portion of the zamīndāri the western half is very hilly land covered with poor forest. The few villages lie chiefly along the western border, the rest of this portion being unculturable. The eastern corner is also jungly, and the only portion at all well occupied is a strip lying in a valley between hills and running from the centre of the zamīndāri to the north-eastern boundary. *Bīja* is the principal timber wood found in this zamīndāri;

shīsham and *sāj* (teak) are also found in small quantities. There are numerous nullahs in the zamīndāri, some of large size, but none containing water all the year round. The soil is sandy, growing rice and other *kharīf* crops. Korācha, after which the estate is called, is prettily situated in a long horse-shoe of craggy hills, most fantastically peaked and splintered, and possesses a tank and a hill spring. It contained only 20 huts with 87 persons in 1901, but the place at one time must have been much larger. It is about 8 miles from Mānpur, the headquarters of the zamīndāri. The estate contains 77 villages, of which 41 are inhabited. Four villages are held by relatives of the zamīndār, and 19 by *thekādārs*, while the remainder are managed direct. This zamīndāri once formed part of the Pānabāras zamīndāri but was separated by a private partition. The present zamīndār Nizāmshāh is about 18 years of age. He was educated at the Chānda English school and is now continuing his study at the Drug English school. The estate has been under the management of the Court of Wards since 1896. It was taken over on account of the mismanagement and indebtedness of the zamīndār at that time; the father died shortly afterwards and his son succeeded him. The Court of Wards has managed to reduce the debts to Rs. 1400 from Rs. 29,500.

Population.

In 1901 the population was 3018 persons, having decreased by 9 per cent. during the previous decade. The decrease is less than in most of the other zamīndāris. It is especially due to the famine of 1899-1900, when there was a great deal of emigration. The comparative smallness of the decrease here is no doubt due to the fact that when in a truly aboriginal state—as he is here—the Gond requires little besides the nuts and roots that he grubs up in the jungle. The zamīndāri is very sparsely populated, having

only 15 persons per square mile as against 146 for the District. There is no large village in the estate. Mānpur, the headquarters of the zamīndāri, contains only 234 persons.

Agriculture.

Of the total area of 37,113 acres, only 6518 acres or about 18 per cent. are occupied for cultivation. In 1906-07 the cultivated area was 6016 acres and gross-cropped area 4790 acres, of which 44 were double-cropped. Rice (1507 acres), and kodon-kutkī (2253 acres) are the principal crops. Linseed was sown in a small area of 152 acres. Rice has been giving way to kodon-kutkī and miscellaneous crops in recent years; the decrease is partly due to insufficiency of seed, but the soils and irrigation are so poor that rice fails completely in this estate in a dry year.

Land Revenue.

The Government demand was originally Rs. 8-8. At the settlement of 1868 the income of the estate was estimated at Rs. 314, on which Rs. 10 were fixed as Government demand. This settlement was made for a period of 20 years. At the summary settlement in 1888 the *takolī* fixed was Rs. 85 and cesses were Rs. 50 on an estimated income of Rs. 1310. At the last settlement which runs from 1st July 1905 to 30th June 1919, the income of the estate was estimated at Rs. 2929-15. The bulk of this sum amounting to Rs. 2052 was estimated as forest and miscellaneous income. The *takolī* or the Government demand was fixed at Rs. 145, and cesses Rs. 80. The cesses, however, excluded Rs. 87 on account of patwāri contribution which was abolished in 1906. In 1906-07 the income from land was Rs. 830-5, and the *siwai* income from forest, etc., was Rs. 4250.

Miscellaneous.

The produce of the estate is exported to Rāj-Nāndgaon on the Bengal-Nāgpur Railway, which is about 64 miles from Mānpur, the

headquarters of the estate. A road is being constructed which will connect Dhamtarī and Bālod with Mānpur. By the shortest route Mānpur is about 60 miles from Bālod, 94 miles from Drug, and 84 miles from Dhamtarī. A primary school has recently been started by the District Council at Mānpur.

Malighori.—(The Gardener's Pit.) The site of a village market at the trijunction of three villages in the Sanjāri tahsīl, 5 miles from Bālod on the road to Lohāra. It is related that at this place there once lived a Banjārā who had a dog. The Banjārā took a loan from a moneylender and pledged his dog as security. Some time afterwards a theft was committed in the house of the moneylender, and the thieves threw the property into a tank. The dog saw this, and after they left brought the moneylender to the place and showed him the property. The moneylender was very pleased with the dog and tied a letter round his neck saying that his loan had been repaid and told him to go home, so the dog went and on his way met his master, the Banjārā, who was bringing the amount of his debt to the moneylender. The Banjārā did not see the letter and was angry with the dog who had, as he thought, run away after he had been left on trust. So he killed the dog in a rage for neglecting his duty, but after killing him he found the letter on his neck and was greatly grieved, so that he raised a temple to his memory, which is still standing, and is called the Kukarrā Marhī. Inside the temple is the image of a dog. This is an interesting Hindu version of the story of Llewellyn.

Nagpurā.—A large village in the Drug tahsīl about 5 miles north-west of Drug and a mile from the Seonāth river. Its area is nearly 4000 acres, and the population was under 1300 persons in 1901 as against more than 1600 in 1891. The soil is productive and there is a con-

siderable double-cropped area. The village has an old Jain temple, and there is a tradition that the temples at Arang, Deo Balodā and Nagpurā were built on the same night. The proprietor is a rich resident Baniā who is related to the Drug mālguzārs. The village has a primary school.

Nawāgarh.—(The New Fort.)—A large village in the Bemetarā tahsīl about 15 miles north of Bemetarā on the eastern bank of the Morangia river and 63 miles from Drug. Its area is 4000 acres and the population was 2500 persons in 1901, having been practically stationary during the previous decade. Nawāgarh was at one time the capital of Gond Rājās who ruled over a considerable extent of the surrounding country. Two tanks said to have been built by them, and the ditch of their fort, still remain. Nawāgarh was also one of the 36 forts of the Haihayavansī Rājās, from which the country of Chhattīsgarh is said to be named. It was the headquarters of a tahsīl under the Marāthās and under the British Government until 1864. There is an old temple of Khedāpati which is said to have the date of its construction, Samvat 704 (648 A.D.), engraved on it. A red sandstone is found here from which stone bowls and stools and small crucibles are made. There are weaving and brass-working industries. Weekly markets are held on Tuesdays and Sundays. The village has a primary school, a police Station-house, and a branch post office. The proprietors are Chhattīsgarhi Brāhmans, and there are a number of Brāhman residents who are fond of litigation.

Pānabāras Zamīndāri.—The zamīndāris of Pānabāras and Aundhī belong to one zamīndār but are separated by the intervening zamīndāri of Korācha. Pānabāras is situated on the western highlands, and forms the most elevated portion

Natural features.

of the range with an area of 345 square miles, of which 78 square miles consist of unsurveyed hill and forest. The zamīndāri is shaped roughly like a pentagon with an angle in the north. Half of the zamīndāri lying west of a line drawn from the northern angle to the centre of the opposite base consists very largely of forest and rocky hills; the eastern angle of the pentagon also consists of rocky hills covered with forest. Between these two jungly portions is a comparatively level strip running north and south and drained by several large nullahs. This strip is the best developed portion of the zamīndāri particularly in the north. It contains a large amount of jungle in the village area but the cultivation is far more compact and advanced than in the eastern and western portions. These latter tracts contain large areas of unculturable land under rocks and scrub jungle. The estate is bounded on the north by the Ambāgarh-Chaukī zamīndāri, on the north-east by the *khālsa* villages of the Sanjāri tahsīl, on the east by the Dondī-Lohāra zamīndāri, on the south-east by the Kānker State, on the south-west by the Korācha zamīndāri, and on the west by the Garhchirolī tahsīl of the Chānda District. The Seonāth river rises in this zamīndāri, and after flowing through it for some distance from south to north, forms for some miles the western boundary between the estate and Chānda District. Then after dividing Pānabāras and Ambāgarh Chaukī for some distance it enters the latter. A few streams of importance also flow from north to south. An old fort exists at Rāmgarh, and there are the remains of an ancient temple near Dewalsūr. Pānabāras, the old residence of the zamīndār, is a small straggling village situated at the foot of a rocky hill, on the banks of a sandy-bedded stream, and surrounded by dense thickets of thorns and bushes, which mark the site of former habitations. The headquarters have now been shifted to Mohalā, a village

about 10 miles from Pānabāras. Mohalā commands a picturesque view of the surrounding hills, and appears as if it were situated in the centre of a circle of hillocks. It has a beautiful tank with a well-stocked garden as large as the village itself. Even now when the zamīndār happens to be at Pānabāras drums are beaten in his honour and the grandmother of the present zamīndār still lives here. The forest in this estate formerly contained large quantities of good timber but reckless cutting has nearly ruined them, and recovery will be very slow. There is more teak here than in other zamīndāris but most of it is small and the forest income now is chiefly derived from miscellaneous timber and minor produce. The estate contains 263 villages, of which 160 are inhabited. Of the inhabited villages 5 are held *muāfi* by relatives of the zamīndār, 34 by *thekādārs* with protected status, 118 by ordinary *thekādārs*, 9 under direct management, and 10 by Mānjhis, a class of religious worshippers, who in addition to acting as advisers of the zamīndārs performed certain police duties. The free grants to these Mānjhis have been limited to the life-time of the present holders, and it has been decided to levy progressive assessments on their successors.

History.

The zamīndāri has been held by the present family for a long time past, and it is said to have been granted to the ancestors of the present zamīndār by the Gond Rājās of Chānda in recognition of certain help rendered by them. It is doubtless a very ancient grant, and at one time was subject to the Haihayavansī princes of Chhattīsgarh, but there are no documents extant in the District which throw light upon the question. The following family tree gives the relationship of the last ten zamīndārs, including the present.

- Govindshāh I
  - Fatteshāh (2)
    - Nizāmshāh (3)
      - Bhagwānshāh (4)
      - Durgāshāh (5)
    - Nirangshāh
      - Shankarshāh (6)
        - Doulatshāh (7)
          - Dalīpshāh (8)
    - Ghūrān Bāpu
      - Mahrājshāh (9)
        - Dameshāh, the present zamīndār.

Tradition states that Dhamshāh, a former chief of Pānabāras, displayed such valour in an action against the Delhi troops who invaded his territory that the Emperor :—

> 'With the stern joy which warriors feel
> In foemen worthy of their steel'

created him prince of the Wairāgarh chieftains, and granted him various insignia of rank. It is certain that the Pānabāras chiefs have still a *morchhal* (fan of peacock's feathers, set in a chased brass socket with silver handle) ; and a *chawri* (fan of horse hair, set in a silver socket with silver handle), which are emblems of dignity possessed by none other of the zamīndārs, and which in appearance and workmanship seem to be of great antiquity. During the hostilities with Appa Sāhib in 1818 A.D. Nizāmshāh, the ancestor of the present zamīndār, sided with him against the British, and was joined by the whole of his brother chiefs. On one occasion they surprised a British detachment of 70 men at Gilgaon near Rāngi, and it is said, cut it up to a man ; but Nizāmshāh was soon driven back, his zamīndāri occupied, and himself forced to take refuge in Kānker. Ultimately he was pardoned and Pānabāras restored to him. The present zamīndār is named Dame-

shāh. He is a boy of ten years of age, and ascended the *gaddī* six years ago. His estate (including Aundhī) was burdened with a debt of about Rs. 50,000, which is being paid off in yearly instalments of Rs. 7000. The Court of Wards assumed management in 1895 and has since reduced the debt to Rs. 18,000 which is expected to be cleared in a very short time. The annual income of the Pānabāras estate is Rs. 25,000, and annual expenditure Rs. 17,000. The ward was being educated at the primary school of Mohalā, but owing to the death of his mother, he has been brought to Drug where he is completing his education.

Population.

In 1901 the population was 20,718 persons as against 21,076 in 1891, having decreased by about 2 per cent. The population of the estate in 1881 was 12,374. The estate had been making very rapid and continuous progress for many years, and, but for the famines of 1896 and 1899, the population would have surpassed that of 1891 by several thousands. There has been a steady stream of immigration into the estate from Raipur District, and as there is a lot of old fallow and good land as yet unbroken, the immigration will probably continue. The principal castes are Gonds, Halbās, Kalārs and Kawars, constituting more than 50 per cent. of the population. The density is 60 persons per square mile as against 146 for the District. There is no large village in the zamīndāri. The population of Pānabāras was 234 persons in 1901, while that of the new headquarters Mohalā was 559.

Agriculture.

In the north-east and central portion *morand* is the prevailing soil with a good deal of *wardī* and *khardī*. In other tracts *morand* gives way to *wardī* and takes a second place. Some of the villages in the north-east have a sprinkling of better soils and occasionally can manage double-cropping. There are several very fair tanks, but the majority

are small ones drying up early in the year, and irrigation on the whole is poor. Of the total area of 171,192 acres, 65,756 acres or 38 per cent. were occupied for cultivation in 1906-07. The cultivated area was 58,969 acres and the gross cropped area was 49,683 acres, of which 2660 were double-cropped. Rice (16,398 acres), kodon-kutkī (18,828 acres), and linseed (4728 acres) were the principal crops.

Land Revenue.

The original Government revenue for the combined zamīndāris of Pānabāras and Aundhī was Rs. 21. At the settlement of 1866-68 the income of the Pānabāras zamīndāri was estimated at Rs. 6587, on which Rs. 250 were assessed. This settlement was made for a period of 20 years; on the expiry of this period in 1888 a summary settlement was effected, at which the land-revenue *takolī* of Rs. 150 and forest *takolī* of Rs. 50 with a penal *takolī* at 5 per cent. on all forest income above Rs. 5000, were fixed. In 1892 revision of summary settlement took place, at which the forest *takolī* was fixed at Rs. 1000; thus the estate is paying in all Rs. 1150 as *takolī* and Rs. 370 as cesses. At the recent settlement the total income of the estate was estimated at Rs. 18,180-13, which included Rs. 8176-8 as gross *siwai* income from land and forest, on which a *takolī* of Rs. 1500 and cesses of Rs. 605 were sanctioned; the incidence of *takolī* assessment falling at 15 per cent. on the net income of the zamīndār. The cesses do not include additional rate and patwāri cess, which were abolished in 1906. The present settlement runs from 1st July 1905 to 30th June 1919. In 1906-07 the income from land was Rs. 8939-4, and the *siwai* income, *i.e.*, from forest, etc., was Rs. 10,746.

Miscellaneous.

Mohalā, the headquarters of the zamīndāri, is 47 miles from Rāj-Nāndgaon, 65 miles from Drug, and 30 miles from Bālod.

A road connects it with Chaukī and Rāj-Nandgaon, to which latter place the local produce is exported in carts. There is a branch post office at Mohalā. Five schools are maintained by the District Council in this zamīndāri, at Mohalā, Dāngarh, Bharritolā, Rengākatherā and Gotātolā.

Parporī Zamīndāri.—Situated to the north-west of Dhamdā in the Bemetarā tahsīl, is bounded on the north by a portion of Chhuikhadān Feudatory State, on the east by *khālsa* villages, on the south by Khairāgarh Feudatory State, and on the west by Chhuikhadān State and Gandai zamīndāri. Its area is about 28 square miles, comprised in 24 villages, 5 of which lie scattered about to the east and south-east in the *khālsa* of Dhamdā pargana. The entire estate is open and closely cultivated. There is no forest, and the country is fairly level and very fertile. The classes of soil are *kanhār* and *dorsā* of good depth and quality, especially in the northern half of the estate. The southern portion is slightly undulating, and a few *bhāta* ridges alternate with stretches of *matāsi* and *dorsā* land. There are no streams of importance, except the Narbadā nāla running along the northern boundary.

Natural features.

The zamīndār belongs to one of the oldest families in the District, as he is said to be descended from the old Gond Rājā of Dhamdā. The family tree from the time of Sangrām Singh is given below.

History.

Sangrāmsingh

- Durjansingh
  - Gopālrai
    - Dhansingh
      - Chūrāmansingh
- Domansai
  - Aduakrai
    - Marjādsingh
      - Nizāmsingh
        - Rājārām
          - Phūlsingh (present zamīndār).

Durjansingh, son of Sangrāmsingh, was granted the Chhuikhadān State by the Bhonsla government in recognition of services rendered in the conquest of Sambalpur, but in the time of Dhansingh this estate again passed away from the family on account of indebtedness. The present zamīndār Phūlsingh became the zamīndār on the demise of Mst. Phundia Kuwanr zamīndārin who was the widow of Chūrāmansingh and died without issue. The zamīndār is indebted to the extent of Rs. 15,000, and is arranging to pay off the debts within the next four or five years. He is about 35 years of age and knows Hindī. He is a Darbāri and Khās-mulākāti and is exempt under the Arms Act. He has no issue. He is related to the Rāj-Gond family of Imlai in the Jubbulpore District, and resides at Parporī the headquarters of the estate. The zamīndāri contains 24 villages, all inhabited except one. Of these eight are managed directly by the zamīndār, two are held by inferior proprietors, and 13 by the *thekādārs*, of whom nine are protected under Section 65 A of the Land-Revenue Act.

Population.

In 1901 the population was 6934, having decreased by 12 per cent. during the previous decade. The density is 248 persons

per square mile as against 146 for the District. There is no zamīndāri in the District more densely populated than Parporī. The principal castes of inhabitants are Telis, Lodhīs, Gonds and Marārs. The largest village is Parporī Khās with 1013 persons. It has a primary school and a branch post office.

Agriculture.

Of the total area, 13,873 acres or 87 per cent. are occupied for cultivation, the cropped area being 12,919 acres. The principal crops are kodon and wheat sown in rotation in black and brown soil land. Next in importance is rice, which is chiefly grown in the southern half of the estate; but which except in Parporī Khās is not protected by irrigation tanks. In 1906-07 kodon-kutkī occupied 5588 acres, wheat 4053 acres, and rice 1784 acres. The double-cropped area was only 494 acres.

Land Revenue.

The revenue demand was originally only Rs. 300. In 1800 this was raised to Rs. 1400, and in 1819 to Rs. 2500. This, however, was found to be too high, and it was reduced to Rs. 2046 by the Nāgpur Government, and that sum was subsequently commuted to Government currency Rs. 1749-5-9 or 1750. At Mr. Hewitt's settlement of 1866-68 the assets were estimated at Rs. 6150, but the revenue was left unchanged. At Mr. Carey's summary settlement of 1888-89 the gross income of the estate was estimated at Rs. 9655, on which a sum of Rs. 3336 was fixed as Government *takolī*, including cost of police. Rs. 868 were also fixed as cesses on the zamīndār's income. In 1901-02 (Mr. Scott's settlement), the gross income was Rs. 10,791. A *takolī* of Rs. 3500 was sanctioned. A sum of Rs. 1018 was also fixed as cesses. The cesses have since been reduced to Rs. 415 owing to the abolition of the additional rate and patwāri cess. The average rent-rate falls at 11 annas per acre, which somewhat

exceeds the rate of 9 annas 10 pies taken at the regular settlement of 1868, since when no rent enhancement has been made by the Government.

Miscellaneous.

The Dhamdā-Gandai road constructed in 1900 intersects the estate from south-east to north-west. Cutchi traders who have settled in Parporī Khās make large purchases of wheat, gram and linseed for export to Rāj-Nāndgaon. There is little, if any, trade with Dhamdā. Imports consist as usual of sugar, salt, yarn and cotton piece-goods and kerosine oil. A market is held at Parporī on Fridays and Mondays. Parporī is 33 miles from Drug, 12 miles from Dhamdā, and 34 miles from Rāj-Nāndgaon. The District Council maintains two primary schools in this zamīndāri, one at Parporī and the other at Sahaspur.

Pātan.—(From Pattana, a town). A large village in the Drug tahsīl about 20 miles south-east of Drug, with an area of more than 2000 acres. The population was 1850 persons in 1901, having been nearly stationary during the previous decade. The village was one of the 36 forts of Chhattīsgarh, and its old name is said to have been Bhangpur Pātan or 'The Town of Injustice.' A local saying about it is: 'This is the lawless town where nobody cares for the king, and vegetables and sweets both sell at two pice a seer.' The village has 22 tanks, of which 18 are used for irrigation. The Agar tank is an old one and is also known as Buddhināsa or 'The Destroyer of Wits,' because it is believed that people became mad by drinking its waters. The mālguzārs of many adjoining villages reside here, and also a number of moneylenders. The proprietors are two resident Marāthā Brāhmans. The village is under the Mukaddam Rules and a small fund is raised for purposes of sanitation. It has a police Station-house, a primary school, and a branch post office. A weekly market is held on Tuesdays.

Natural features.

Sahaspur-Lohāra Zamīndāri.—A zamīndāri of the Bemetarā tahsīl, situated at the extreme north-western corner of the District, bounded on the north and west by the Kawardhā Feudatory State, on the east by Khairāgarh State, and on the south by the Silheti zamīndāri. The western portion of the estate consists of a rugged mass of hills extending to the upland country bordering on Kawardhā; eight small villages are situated on the uplands and ten in the valleys of the Kurrua and Chitāwar rivers, which drain the eastern slopes of the hills. The eastern portion is level and open except at the base of the hills. The land is very fertile and the prevailing soils are *kanhār* and good *dorsā*. Numerous streams run eastwards through the low country, some of which contain an unfailing supply of water. The zamīndāri is one of the best of the north-western zamīndāris, but deterioration is most marked. Its area is 146 square miles, of which 60 square miles is under forest, the principal trees being *sarai*, *sāja*, *bīja* and *harrā*.

History.

The zamīndāri originally formed part of the Kawardhā State, but it was afterwards separated and given to one Baijnāth Singh, son of Mahābali, the Kawardhā zamīndār. The family is Belkaria Gond by caste, and the family tree from Baijnāth Singh is given below :—

Baijnāthsingh

Kunjalsingh | Sonesingh | Keharsingh

Keharsingh → Rajessingh

Rajessingh → Jagmohansingh (present zamīndār) | Manmohansingh.

The present zamīndār Jagmohan Singh, who resides at Lohāra, is about 30 years of age, knows Hindī and is of a charitable disposition. He has paid off a large portion of the debts incurred by his father, but has still a balance of about Rs. 5000 to clear. He is a Darbāri and Khās-mulākāti and exempt under the Arms Act. The zamīndāri consists of 88 villages, 26 of which are managed direct by the zamīndār, 50 are held by *thekādārs*, 6 by *muāfidārs*, one by an inferior proprietor and five are waste. Of the 50 villages held by *thekādārs*, fourteen are now protected under Section 65 A of the Land Revenue Act as against 22 at the settlement of 1888-90. The *thekādārs* are mostly Bairāgis, Telis and Brāhmans, and the tenants Gonds, Chhatrīs and Telis.

Population.

In 1901 the population was 14,927 persons, having decreased by 32 per cent. during the previous decade. The density is 102 persons per square mile as against 146 for the District. The principal castes of inhabitants are Gonds, Marārs and Telis, who suffered very much during the famines and cycle of bad years. There is no large village in the estate except Lohāra with 1674 persons. Lohāra contains a primary school, a police Station-house and a branch post office.

Agriculture.

The eastern tract, which consists of open land, grows *rabi* crops in a large proportion, whereas the western portion, which is jungly and hilly, grows only *kharīf* and millets. Of the total area, 41,551 acres or 78 per cent. are occupied for cultivation, the cropped area being 36,179 acres. The principal crops grown in the estate in 1906-07 were kodon-kutkī (19,388 acres), wheat (8770 acres), rice (2255 acres), and linseed (1423 acres).

Land Revenue.

The revenue demand was fixed at Rs. 300 when the zamīndāri was conferred, but in 1798 A.D., it was raised to Rs. 800; and in 1819 to Rs. 1750 or Rs. 1495-11-7 in Government currency. At Mr. Hewitt's settlement of 1866-68 the income was estimated at Rs. 18,564, on which a revenue of Rs. 4500 was fixed. At Mr. Carey's summary settlement of 1888-89 the gross income of the estate was estimated at Rs. 27,126 and a *takolī* of Rs. 7500 was fixed. A sum of Rs. 2156 was assessed on account of cesses. At Mr. Scott's settlement of 1901-02 a gross income of Rs. 23,574 was estimated, on which Rs. 8000 were fixed as Government *takolī*, and also a sum of Rs. 2187 was fixed as cesses. The cesses have since been reduced to Rs. 895 owing to the abolition of the additional rate and patwāri cess. The average rent-rate per acre falls at As. 11-4 as against As. 9-4 at the regular settlement of 1866-68.

Miscellaneous.

Exports consist chiefly of wheat, linseed and gram. The estate is intersected from south to north by the Dongargarh-Pandaria road. Weekly markets are held at Lohāra and Chārbhāta on Wednesdays and Thursdays respectively. A market is held at Bachedi on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Sahaspur Village.—The headquarters village of the Sahaspur-Lohāra zamīndāri of the Bemetarā tahsīl, having a population of less than 300 persons. Sahaspur and Lohāra are two villages separated by a large tank about 2 miles long. They are 47 miles from Drug and 48 miles from Rāj-Nāndgaon. The village is said to derive its name from Sahasra Arjuna, the founder of the Haihaya dynasty. There is a statue here, said to be that of Sahasra Arjuna, and beneath it an inscription, dated 934 of the Kalachuri era, or 1182 A.D. The inscription mentions King Yashorāj, his Queen Lakshmī Devi, and their children,

Prince Bhojdeva, Prince Rājadeva and Princess Jāsalladevi.

Description.

Sanjāri Tahsīl.—The southern tahsīl of the new Drug District, which was constituted in 1906 from portions of the old Drug and Dhamtarī tahsīls of the Raipur District. The tahsīl lies between 21° 1′ and 20° 23′ N. and 81° 31′ and 80°48′ E. The tahsīl was formed by taking 373 square miles from the former Drug tahsīl and 944 square miles from the former Dhamtarī tahsīl of the Raipur District. It thus had an area of 1317 square miles. But from the 1st October 1907, four zamīndāris, Pānabāras, Korācha, Aundhī and Ambāgarh Chaukī with an area of 838 square miles, were transferred to the Sanjāri tahsīl from the Chānda District, while the zamīndāri of Gundardehī with an area of 83 square miles and 35 *khālsa* villages with an area of 57 square miles were transferred from the Sanjāri to the Drug tahsīl. The final area of the tahsīl is 2015 square miles or 43 per cent. of that of the District. Its headquarters have been fixed at Bālod, a village containing 1228 persons, and 35 miles distant from Drug by road; but the tahsīl was named after another village Sanjāri, to prevent confusion with the Balodā Bazār tahsīl of Raipur. The shape of the tahsīl is irregular. Of the mālguzāri area of the tract the northern part consists of the area transferred from the extreme south-west corner of the Drug tahsīl, the western portion from a tract of the Dhamtarī tahsīl enclosed between the zamīndāri estates of Dondī-Lohāra and Khujjī, and the southern and eastern part of the north-western portion of the old Dhamtarī tahsīl. The zamīndāri estates all lie to the west of the tahsīl. The tahsīl is bounded on the north by the Drug tahsīl, on the east and south-east by the Raipur District, on the south-west and west by the Chānda District, while the Nāndgaon Feudatory State lies

to the north-west. The Government forest area of the tahsīl is 174 square miles, and some mālguzāri forests are situated in the south and west. The tahsīl is hilly to the south and east, with some open blocks in the western zamīndāris, but the hills are not high. The principal range is that of Dallī Jharan in the Dondī-Lohāra zamīndāri, and there is a large hill known as Killākondā in the Lohāra zamīndāri. The eastern and northern tracts of the tahsīl contain quite flat country which is all embanked. The Seonāth river rises in the Pānabāras zamīndāri and flows through the western corner of the tahsīl, passing by the villages of Chaukī and Khujjī. The Khārun rises in the tahsīl and flows in the north-eastern corner. The Tandulā rises in the northern corner of the Kānker State and flows from south to north in the tahsīl, passing by Bālod and Gundardehī, and meets the Seonāth at Changori in the Drug tahsīl. The Sūkha, an important jungly stream, rises near the southern border of the tahsīl and meets the Tandulā near Bālod. The Kharkhorā is also an important stream which, rising in the south, flows in a northerly direction past Sanjāri till it meets the Seonāth at Jholā on the western border of the District. The Mahānadi river also forms a natural boundary in the south-eastern corner for some miles. There are three main roads: (1) that from Rāj-Nāndgaon to Antāgarh, (2) from Drug to Bālod, and (3) from Dhamtarī to Muramgaon in Chānda District, with a branch which runs to Lohāra in the Dondī-Lohāra zamīndāri and meets the Drug-Antāgarh road there.

Population.

The population of the reconstituted tahsīl was 213,950 persons in 1901, or about 32 per cent. of that of the District. In 1891 the population was 259,948 persons, thus showing a decrease during the decade of 18 per cent. as against the District figure of 16·8. The tahsīl was severely affected

by famine during the decade. The density of population is 106 per square mile, the lowest in the District, as against the District figure of 146. The density of the *khālsa* tract is 161. The tahsīl contains 1071 villages, 77 of which are uninhabited. The following villages had a population of over 1000 persons :—Badgaon Mādhoprasād (1071), Pharadphod (1335), Sambalpur Hariprasād (1076), Arkār (1202), Armari (1026), Bālod Khās (1228), Kanwar (1336), Nimorā (1089), Palāri (1289), Dondī (1162), Lohāra (1354), Ambāgarh Chaukī (1205).

Agriculture.

The tract round Bālod contains the best soil; the open country is nearly as good as in Bemetarā tahsīl and better than Drug, but elsewhere it is very inferior. Generally the soil may be described as yellow and stony. The rice fields are embanked and the double crops are grown in embanked fields of *kanhār* and *dorsā* soils, and sometimes in *matāsi*. Of the *khālsa* area 174 square miles or 2 per cent. were occupied by Government forest in 1907-08, and another 155 square miles, or 19 per cent., by private forest and grass. The zamīndāris have an area of 452 square miles or 38 per cent. under forest and scrub jungle and grass. Of the *khālsa* village area a proportion of 70 per cent. was occupied for cultivation, while in the zamīndāris the similar proportion was only 40 per cent. The occupied area of both *khālsa* and zamīndāris was 546,213 acres, or 53 per cent. of that of the village area. The cultivated area was 498,890 acres and the gross cropped area 487,229, of which 89,738 or 18 per cent. were double-cropped. The principal statistics of cropping for the years 1905-06, 1906-07, and 1907-08 are shown in the annexed statement. The main crop of the tahsīl is rice, which covers 46 per cent. of the total cropped area. A large area is sown with kodon-kutkī, urad, mūng and moth, and linseed. The irrigated area in 1907-08 was

9852 acres, while it was 1861 in 1906-07. The principal crops are linseed, mūng, gram and peas, which are grown as after-crops in the damp rice fields by the method called *uterā*. The production of sugarcane, tobacco, cotton and masūr is insignificant.

Statistics of Cropping.

Year.	Rice.	Wheat.	Kodon-kutki.	Linseed.	Gram.	Cotton.	Til.	Arhar.	Tiurā-Lākh	Masūr.	Urad, Mūng and Moth.	Peas.	Sugarcane.	Tobacco.	Double-cropped area.	Total cropped area.*	Irrigated area.	REMARKS.
5-06 Khālsa ..	160,377	10,575	58,106	21,488	8729	1873	3190	326	9927	766	93,029	4337	18	263	118,483	387,408	1804	
Zamīndāris	41,972	3228	30,687	7286	2689	601	3080	106	3021	418	16,762	1588	8	153	23,683	116,989	252	
Total ..	202,349	13,803	88,793	28,774	11,418	2514	6270	432	12,948	1184	109.791	5925	26	416	142,166	5C4,397	2056	
6-07 Khālsa ..	149,127	12,599	44,202	23,571	7426	1080	3807	7169	7617	734	88,314	3953	6	328	10,097	362,077	944	
Zamīndāris	62,695	2581	49,305	17,173	3609	613	8567	9103	2135	176	10,637	796	3	561	20,748	180,867	917	
Total ..	211,822	15,180	93,507	40,744	11,035	1693	12,374	16,272	9752	910	98,951	4749	9	889	130,845	542,944	1861	
7-08 Khālsa ..	153,348	5939	47,040	6470	7885	765	4130	5930	5491	284	64.466	1770	19	120	76,656	315,880	8213	
Zamīndāris	70,223	1284	55,082	6239	2659	421	11,436	620	1830	62	7340	376	2	186	13,082	171,349	1639	
Total ..	223,571	7223	102,122	12,709	10,544	1186	15,566	6550	7321	346	71,806	2146	21	306	89,738	487,229	9852	
centage of area under each crop on the total cropped area in 1907-08.	46	1·5	20·5	3	2	0·24	3	1	1·5	0·07	15	0·44	..	..	18			

* Includes double-cropped area.

Land Revenue.

In 1907-08 the land-revenue demand of the mālguzāri villages was Rs. 98,591, and the demand for cesses Rs. 5573; the average rent-rate being As. 8-1, and the revenue rate As. 5-3 per acre. The area transferred from the old Drug tahsīl was summarily settled by Khān Bahādur Aulād Husain in 1886-87, and re-settled by Mr. Blenkinsop in 1902 for a period of eight years, expiring in 1910. The *takolī* of the zamīndāris lying in the tahsīl was Rs. 13,245, and Rs. 2847 were fixed as cesses. The average *takolī* rate was A. 1-0 per acre.

Miscellaneous.

The tahsīl is divided into six Revenue Inspectors' circles, with headquarters at Chaukī, Mohalā, Chikhlī, Bālod, Bhanderā, and Gurur, and 122 patwāris' circles. It contains seven police Station-houses at Bālod, Gurur, Pinkāpār, Dondī (Lohāra), Lohāra (Dondī), Ambāgarh Chaukī, and Mohalā. The Station-house at Mohalā is being shifted to Mānpur, the headquarters of the Korācha zamīndāri.

Sanjāri Village.—A small village in the Sanjāri tahsīl about 29 miles from Drug, with a population of nearly 800 persons in 1901 as against 250 in 1891. The name of the village was chosen for the tahsīl, the headquarters of which are at Bālod, the name Bālod being rejected to avoid confusion with the Balodā Bazār tahsīl of Raipur. Except for this, Sanjāri has nothing worthy of notice.

Sātpurā Hills.—The western range of these hills, known also as the Maikal Range, enters the District in the north-west, and some of the zamīndāri estates are situated on its slopes.

Seonāth River.—An important river and the largest tributary of the Mahānadi in the Central Provinces. The river rises in the hills of Pānabāras zamīndāri and flows north and north-west through Ambāgarh Chaukī, passing Chaukī village. It forms the boundary between Nāndgaon,

Ambāgarh Chaukī, and Khujjī. Drug and Nāndgaon are divided by the river for a short distance and then turning to the east it flows through the Nāndgaon State for about 16 miles and enters Drug. The Seonāth is joined by the Tandulā near the village of Changori and then turns to the north, passing two miles west of Drug town and being crossed by the railway at Mohlai and by the Great Eastern Road at Mohmarrā. Flowing north it passes within three miles of Dhamdā and close to Simgā, and meets the Khārun near Jamghāt on the border of Raipur and Drug. The Raipur-Bilāspur and Bhātāpāra-Mungelī roads cross the Seonāth at Nāndghāt and four miles west of this it is joined by the Hānp river. It then forms the boundary between Raipur and Bilāspur for about 40 miles, skirting the Tarengā estate, until it joins the Mahānadi at Devighāt near Seorīnarāyan. It is again crossed by the railway near Garhā. The total length of the Seonāth is about 220 miles, of which about 180 miles lie in the Drug District. The principal tributaries on the right bank are the Tandulā and Khārun; and on the left bank the Sonbarsā, Amner, and Hānp in the Drug District, and the Maniāri, Arpā and Līlāgar in the Bilāspur District. The bed of the Seonāth is sandy for most of its length, but near Simgā and in Tarengā are some rocks. Its greatest width is about three-quarters of a mile. The banks in many places are from 20 to 50 feet high. Melons and cucumbers are grown on the sandy stretches in the bed of the river. The story of the origin of the Seonāth is that there was a Gond girl named Shiva, whom a Gond boy carried off, with a view to marry her after the *bandhori* (or rape) form of marriage which was then in fashion among the Gonds. But she refused to marry him and he killed her and threw her body into a ravine, and from this the Seonāth began to flow.

Silhetī Zamīndāri.—A small zamīndāri situated in the Bemetarā tahsīl. It is bounded on the north by the Sahaspur-Lohāra zamīndāri, on the east by Khairāgarh State, on the south by Chhuikhadān, Khairāgarh and the zamīndāris of Barbaspur and Gandai, and on the west by Kawardhā State. It consists of two detached blocks. The western block, separated from the eastern by the villages of Sahaspur-Lohāra and Chhuikhadān, consists for the most part of hilly country drained by the Karrā nadī. The greater portion of the inhabited village area, surrounded by hills and forest, lies in the valley of this stream. Seven villages are situated on the upland and 14 below the *ghāts*. The tract is very poor, its soil being chiefly *bhāta*. The eastern block contains nine closely cultivated villages situated in an open fertile country, covered chiefly with good *dorsā* and *kanhār* soils. The area of the estate is 55 square miles comprised in 30 villages. Twenty-four villages are held by *thekādārs*, one by a *muāfidār*, a relative of the zamīndār, and the remaining five are under the management of the Court of Wards. Out of the 24 *thekādārs* five have protected status. The *thekādārs* are principally Gond, Kurmī and Teli by caste, while the tenants are Gonds, Telis, Kurmīs and Marārs. An area of 24 square miles is under forest, the principal trees being *sarai*, *sāj* and *harrā*. Teak is rarely found.

Natural features.

This zamīndāri formerly formed part of the Gandai zamīndāri, but at the commencement of British rule it was, at the request of the zamīndār himself, separated therefrom and assigned to a member of his family as his share of the family property. For the genealogy of this family the article on the Gandai zamīndāri may be consulted. The late zamīndār, Bahādursingh, was called 'Thākur.' He

History.

was a Darbāri, Khās-mulākāti, and exempt under the Arms Act. On his becoming insane the management of the estate was assumed by the Court of Wards in November 1902. The Court of Wards has paid off the debt of Rs. 7000 contracted by the zamīndār. On the death of Bahādursingh in January 1906, his widow Mst. Basant Kuar was recognised as zamīndārin. The estate still continues to be under the management of the Court of Wards.

Population.

In 1901 the population was 4408 persons, having decreased by 23 per cent. during the previous decade. The density is 80 persons per square mile as against the District figure of 146. Silhetī, which is 43 miles from Drug and 50 miles from Rāj-Nāndgaon, is the only large village with a population of 960 persons. There is a District Council primary school at Silhetī, and a weekly market is held there on Fridays.

Agriculture.

Of the total area 10,925 acres or 57 per cent. are occupied for cultivation, the cropped area being 8089 acres. The principal crops grown in the estate were in 1906-07 kodonkutkī (4628 acres), wheat (1682 acres) and rice (584 acres).

Land Revenue.

The revenue at the time of its separation from Gandai was Rs. 598-4-8 in Government currency. At Mr. Hewitt's settlement of 1866-68 the income was estimated at Rs. 4200 on which a *takolī* of Rs. 1000 was fixed. At Mr. Carey's summary settlement of 1888-89 the gross income was estimated at Rs. 5918 on which a *kāmil jamā* of Rs. 3896 was proposed. The Government demand or *takolī* including the cost of police was fixed at Rs. 1790 and Rs. 438 as cesses. At Mr. Scott's settlement of 1901-02 a gross income of Rs. 5750 was estimated and the *takolī* sanctioned was Rs. 1790. The cesses payable from the

zamīndār's income were fixed at Rs. 496. The cesses have since been reduced to Rs. 201 owing to the abolition of the additional rate and patwāri cess. The average rent-rate falls at As. 9-2 per acre, as against As. 9-7 at the regular settlement of 1866-68.

Miscellaneous.

The Dongargarh-Pandaria road runs through the eastern group of villages. The principal article of export is wheat, which is either sold to traders at Gandai, or conveyed to Dongargarh on the Bengal-Nāgpur Railway. Exports of forest produce are small.

Sorar.—A village in the Sanjāri tahsīl, about 9 miles east of Bālod. The ruins of temples and other buildings which are found here show that it was a place of considerable importance in the past. The most interesting remains are a number of stone pillars standing in a row and surrounded by stone circles. These Mr. Hīra Lāl considers to be the tombs of olden times. They are, he states, exactly like the stone circles found in the Marāthā country with an additional pillar in the centre, probably marking the burial-place of the principal men of the family. This is the solitary example of such stones in Chhattīsgarh. It is supposed that Sorar was once the capital of a Rājā, about whom the following legend is related: Long ago a Kalār woman lived here, and a Rājput king from a distance was hunting with his falcon, and the falcon flew away on and on and the Rājā followed it, until it finally came to Sorar and flew into the Kalār woman's house, and when the king came up, the woman said to him that he was far from his home and had better rest there for the night. So he stayed there and fell in love with the Kalārin and married her, and they had a son called Chhachān-Chhāru, *chhachān* meaning a falcon; and when the son grew up he was very strong and became a great warrior, and conquered all the

neighbouring kings, and whenever he conquered one, he took his wife or daughter for himself, until at last he had 160 wives; and he made all his wives pound rice in stone mortars, and the 160 mortars are still to be seen. But one day he said to his mother that she was more beautiful than all his wives. And on this, his mother was afraid of him and determined to kill him. So she gave him food which created a great thirst, and he went down to the large stone well here to drink from it, and she threw stones from above and killed him. And going a little way off she stabbed herself with a dagger and was turned into stone, and her figure[1] with the dagger is still to be seen. And Chhachān-Chhāru is worshipped by the people of Sorar and the surrounding villages.

Tandulā River.—The Tandulā rises in the north of Kānker State and flows north through the Sanjāri tahsīl passing Bālod and Gundardehī, until it joins the Seonāth near Changori in the south of Drug. Its total length is about 60 miles, and it is joined by the Sūkha stream near Bālod. The Tandulā is named from *tandul*, the Sanskrit and Marāthī word for rice, because it is said that a Gond once threw a dam across it and grew 400 acres of irrigated rice below the dam. All the Gonds of this part of the District speak Marāthī. The bed of the Tandulā is sandy and its banks are low.

Thākurtolā Zamīndāri.—A zamīndāri situated in the Bemetarā tahsīl, and bounded on the north and east by the Gandai zamīndāri, on the south by Chhuikhadān and Nāndgaon Feudatory States, and on the west by the Bālāghāt District. Its area is 187 square miles, 149 of which or 81 per cent. consist of hills and forest. It contains 81 villages, 10 villages having lapsed into waste. The

Natural features.

[1] The figure is really that of a male warrior.

estate is very wild and jungly. The western tract, constituting two-thirds of the estate, consists of hilly country on the Bālāghāt plateau of Sāletekrī. The eastern tract, forming a portion of the country below the *ghāts*, is scarcely less wild than the uplands. Spurs from the main range run to the borders of Gandai, and the valley lying between these low ranges of hills contains very little culturable land, except in the neighbourhood of Thākurtolā Khās. The prevailing soil is *bhāta*, except in a small group of villages on the uplands and near Thākurtolā in the lowlands, where good *dorsā* land is met with. Forty-four villages are situated above the *ghāts* and 27 in the low country. Of these villages, 26 are held by *thekādārs*, one by a *muāfidār*, and the remaining 44 are under direct management. Protected status was conferred at Mr. Carey's summary settlement on 14 *thekādārs* and two *muāfidārs*, but 11 of the former surrendered their leases on account of poverty. The whole tract abounds in game of every description excepting the buffalo. The forests contain some valuable timber, principally teak, *sāj*, *bīja*, *harrā* and bamboo, but the facilities for its export are small. They have, however, been improved by the construction of a road along the Morum Ghāti. The estate has been under the management of the Court of Wards for some time, and has been freed from debts which amounted to Rs. 23,000.

History.

The zamīndāri was bestowed on an ancestor of the present family Chamār Rai in 1842 by the Marāthā Government, the old chieftain being dispossessed for misconduct. The family tree since Chamār Rai is given below.

- Chamār Rai.
  - Bisrām Singh
  - Adhār Singh
    - Anand Singh
      - Rūp Singh
      - Shyām Singh
    - Kehar Singh
    - Kanhai Singh
    - Amān Singh
      - Khumān Singh
        - (Heir-apparent).
      - Orilāl
      - Bhyankar Singh
      - Dimankar Singh
      - Girdhāri
  - Hate Singh

The family is related to the Dilheri and Pitehrā Rāj-Gond families of the Narsinghpur District and the Bhandrā family of the Jubbulpore District. The present zamīndārin is Mst. Prem Kuar, widow of the late zamīndār Rūp Singh, and on her death Lāl Khumān Singh will succeed. The zamīndār is invariably a Darbāri, and Khās-mulākāti and exempt under the Arms Act. Khumān Singh is 32 years of age and knows Hindī. He is a Bench magistrate exercising third-class powers.

Population.

In 1901 the population was 4460 persons, having decreased by 37 per cent. during the previous decade. The zamīndāri is very thinly populated having a density of only 24 persons per square mile as against 146 for the District. There is no large village in the estate. Thākurtolā has a population of 472 persons. The inhabitants of the estate are mostly Gonds with migratory habits. During the famines and in the years of successive unfavourable harvests many emigrated to other parts.

Agriculture.

Of the total area 13,801 acres or 56 per cent. are occupied for cultivation, the cropped area being 9553 acres. The principal crops grown in 1906-07 were kodon-kutkī (6343 acres) and rice (1057 acres), and a small area of 592 acres

is under wheat. Much of the wheat-land round Thākurtolā in the Jhilmili valley is overrun with thatching grass and a large area of rice-land above the *ghāts* has lapsed into waste.

Land Revenue.

The revenue demand was originally fixed at Rs. 350. It was subsequently raised to Rs. 445 or in Government currency Rs. 381-13-10. At Mr. Hewitt's settlement of 1866-68 the income was estimated at Rs. 2250, on which a revenue of Rs. 500 was fixed. At Mr. Carey's summary settlement of 1888-89 the total income was estimated at Rs. 7279, on which a *takolī* of Rs. 1800 including the cost of police was sanctioned, and also Rs. 351 were fixed as cesses. At Mr. Scott's settlement of 1901-02 a gross income of Rs. 8600 was estimated, on which Rs. 1900 were sanctioned as *takolī*. The cesses fixed at this settlement were Rs. 544. The cesses have since been reduced to Rs. 219 owing to the abolition of the additional rate and patwāri cess. The average rent-rate per acre falls at 5 annas 9 pies as against 6 annas 6 pies at the regular settlement of 1866-68.

Miscellaneous.

The principal articles of export are timber, *harrā* and bamboos from the forests. There is but one good fair weather track leading from Gandai to Thākurtolā, and thence westwards to Chhuikhadān. A weekly market is held at Thākurtolā on Mondays, and at Rāmpur and Bakarkotā on Wednesdays and Thursdays respectively. Thākurtolā is 52 miles from Drug, and 36 miles from Rāj-Nāndgaon, 9 miles from Gandai and 17 miles from Khairāgarh. There is a District Council primary school at Thākurtolā, and one has been recently opened at Rāmpur.

Warārbāndh.—A small estate consisting of eight villages which lies in Nāndgaon territory five miles from the border of Drug District. The total area is 11 square

miles, and it lies on both sides of the Great Eastern Road about 29 miles from Drug. The estate is held free of revenue by the descendants of the former zamīndārs of Dongargarh. The Dongargarh zamīndāri was confiscated by the Bhonsla Rājā on account of a rebellion of the chief, and was divided between the Rājās of Khairāgarh and Nāndgaon as a reward for suppressing the revolt, while the small Warārbāndh estate was granted to the dispossessed zamīndār's family. The estate is now under the management of the Court of Wards on account of indebtedness. Its annual income is about Rs. 4500 and it has still to clear a debt of Rs. 9000. The present representatives of the family, Padam Singh and Kalandar Singh, were educated at the Rājkumār College at Raipur, and live at Warārbāndh. There is a large and picturesque tank here which has given its name to the place, Warārbāndh being a corruption of Odārbāndh or the tank dug by the Odes or Uriyās. It is related that a Rājā fell in love with an Odni woman and attempted to seduce her. But she fled from him and came to Warārbāndh, and when the Rājā followed her she burnt herself, whereupon the Uriyās built this tank in her memory in a single night, and left the place in a body.

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